

What's in the Distance?

Week of January 21, 2018

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap: Read Luke 10:25-37

Are you doing whatever it takes to reach people for Jesus? It's time to lay down our personal preferences and make it all about Jesus because God cares about all of his children. Everyone wise ought to be thinking about eternal life remembering that everything that has anything to do with God is always about (extravagant) love! So loving God has everything to do with loving people. It's natural not wanting to love, but we must live in the supernatural! How can we justify passing by in "The Distance" so easily when we are called to have a supernatural faith and be the hands and feet of Jesus? We can't! "The Distance" is about everything except Jesus. Our love for God can't live distant from the need of our neighbors! Our distance from "broken" merely reflects our distance from Jesus.

Pray

Lord, thank you for loving us. Thank you for loving all of your children. We pray that we would make it all about you and your son. We pray that we would turn from our nature and instead find a love that is supernatural. Inspire us through your word to find you in serving our neighbors who are in need of your love. We know we can't be satisfied with keeping any distance between us. We pray that we could now move closer to understanding where we can be your hands and feet in the world.

Getting Started

- Who have you met that had a genuine love for people?
- Talk about a time you were called outside of your comfort zone to care for someone else.

Digging Deeper

- 1. How is someone's heart changed when they have received the gift of eternal life?
- 2. Loving God does not create separation from people; so then what causes the separation? What has created a distance between the broken and *you*?
- 3. Discuss how we use our inadequacies to create distance. Where do those ideas come from and how can we combat them?
- 4. Describe how you saw Jesus through the Be The Difference serving challenge by serving in the community.
- 5. We have created a Christianity that is separated from how we live. Discuss how this does not come from Scripture and compare it to what Scripture really says about what our proximity should be to the broken.
- 6. Read John 13:35. How do people know we love Jesus? Review your actions over the past week; how did your neighbors know you love Jesus? OR How will you deliberately show the love of Jesus this week, and to whom?

Living Jesus

"The Distance" we keep from the broken does not come from God. Rather, it comes from our own imperfect human nature. We have to understand that through our relationship with Jesus, we are to find him in serving the broken. Let your faith motivate your reading of Scripture in a way that calls us to touch broken in love and teach salvation in truth – just like Jesus. Do something BOLD to bind up something broken!

Your Story

What happened last week when you did something bold to bind up something broken? Share it with us (link below) so we can share your story to inspire others to respond to Jesus too.

Share your personal story with us <u>here</u> or go to <u>MySevernRun.com</u> and choose Share Your Story under the Forms tab.