

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Embrace Service in a Time of Grasping
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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: If you could pick up a new skill in an instant, what would it be?

Reading: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Outline:

- I. Love Each Other (1 Peter 4:7-8)
 - a. Truth by itself doesn't overcome sin
 - b. We behave as if reason, truth, doctrine alone, can cover over sin. Love covers a multitude of sins.
Q: When have you turned to reason, to justify your actions and sins by circumstance or environment rather than embracing your sin and turning to repentance and love?
- II. Make Friends with Strangers (1 Peter 4:9)
 - a. Hospitality is about showing affection to and making friends with strangers. It is fostering a posture of welcome toward outsiders.
 - b. Peter is challenging us to stop obsessing over how others perceive us and be attuned to how we treat others, especially the stranger.
Q: Are you showing hospitality in your life right now? How can you be more open to hospitality?
- III. Serve with what you have (1 Peter 4:10-11)
 - a. The language that Peter uses here to talk about what we have is not the language of working/earning, but receiving a gift.
 - b. It is significant that Peter here is completely unconcerned with what we have. He is only concerned with how we use it.
Q: What are your gifts? Are you using them to further the Father's Kingdom here on earth?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Is there a person in your life that you can choose to love more intentionally?
- 2) Are there people in your life that you're being called to pursue in hospitality?
- 3) How are we called to treat others?
- 4) Which gifts do you have that you are using? What gifts do you want to use more?

Suggestions for further study:

- Luke 21:1-4 **Q: Luke reminds us to give with what we have whether it be big or small**
- Ephesians 2:12-13 **Q: As christians we are called to seek out the lost, seek the foreigners, and seek the broken to share the good news**
- Ephesians 4:14-15 **Q: Paul reminds us to speak truth in love and not in judgement.**

Closing Prayer:

Gracious Jesus, we thank you so much for the way that You have served us. For the way that you entered in and bore our flesh and sin and healed the sick, gave sight to the blind. Thank you for showing us how to live a life where every moment You showed us service. So Jesus, work in us by the power of your spirit. ~Amen