

LEADERSHIP LESSON 8: O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU? **(CARING FOR FOLKS IN TIMES OF CELEBRATION AND CRISIS)**

OUTLINE BY STEVE LAYTON

Key Passages: Matthew 25: 31-46; Acts 2:42-54; John 13:1-20; Matthew 22: 36-39

By definition, Sunday School is the foundational strategy in a local church for leading people to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and for building on mission Christians. Throughout God's Word we discover on mission Christians (believers) caring for (ministering to) one another.

- I. Jesus is our model for ministry and He **called** the **saved** to **serve**. When one considers God's call on **all** believers, one discovers...
 - a. Calls from God are not issued at random, but each person is **specifically chosen** and called by God for His purpose
 - b. God **equips** those who He calls
 - c. In calling a person to service, God desires the person, not just what the person **can do**
 - d. Before a person can **do** what God wants him to do, he must **be** what God wants him to be
 - e. God has **expectations** of those He calls including faithfulness, obedience, sacrifice, service, influence, and commitment
 - f. Consistent **communication** with God is critical to effectiveness in living out one's calling from God

- II. Jesus is our model for ministry and He **demonstrated** service (ministry) to others. From John 13:1-20 we learn that Christlike leaders...
 - a. **are motivated by love to serve others**
 - b. **initiate servant ministry to others**
 - c. **receive servant ministry from others**
 - d. **teach servant ministry by their example**
 - e. **live a blessed life by serving others**
 - f. **understand that they are advancing the kingdom of God when they serve others**

Question: When Jesus ministered to people, how did they respond? How do people respond when we minister to them personally? Do people respond differently when we minister to them as a small group?

- III. Basic Caring (Ministry) Skills
 - a. **Be authentic (Genuine)**
 - b. **Be available**
 - c. **Be confidential**
 - d. **Be calm**
 - e. **Be impartial**
 - f. **Manage your own feelings**
 - g. **Avoid excessive advice**
 - h. **Stick to specifics**
 - i. **Listen noncritically**
 - j. **Make the other person's needs primary**

Create a list of ministry opportunities to families in times of celebration and crisis. (Record on tear sheets)

Group up: Share with the group other specific ministry opportunities to families as practiced by your small group.

How is your small group organized for ministry?

Read Matthew 22:36-39

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