

**STUDY GROUP HOMEWORK
WEEK 3 - 9/30/09**

SERMON NOTES

GETTING STARTED

What was one of the worst gifts you ever got at Christmas?

What was one of the best gifts you ever got at Christmas when you were a kid? Why was it so great?

Now to giving. What was the worst gift you ever gave? Why?

What was the best gift you ever gave? Why?

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
In receiving gifts there is joy. In giving gifts there is even more joy.

We're going to focus on the giving side of things this week.

DIVING DEEPER

What insight, principle, or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Please explain.

Take a moment and read Mark 2:1-12.

Which person do you think initiated this scene--the paralyzed man or the men who took him? Support your answer with your idea of how it happened.

Do you think there was any hesitation on digging through the roof?

What would you be thinking if you were the person that owned the home where Jesus was preaching that day?

Who do you think had the most joy after everything was said and done? The man who was healed, the men who got him there and dug through the roof, or Jesus? Why?

On Sunday, Frank talked about Jesus healing 10 lepers in Luke 17:11-19. Take a moment and reread that story.

Why do you think 9 of the 10 lepers didn't return? What do you think some of their reasons were?

If you were one of the men who were healed, how do you think you would have responded?

Do you think Jesus was choosy in who he served? Can you think of any instance when he did not show kindness, healing, forgiveness, and hope?

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

BOTTOM LINE: Serving isn't about if we serve or who we serve. It's about doing--sharing and reflecting the love that we have received

How can you SERVE people you love this week?

How can you SERVE people who do not deserve it this week?

How can you SERVE people who despise you this week?

List some names who come to mind here. Have your study group pray for you and keep you accountable as you SERVE.

In the next week, I will take the Next Step and . . .

PRAYER REQUESTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

Next Sunday we are challenging everyone at South to make a physical show of their commitment to our ministry. That commitment will be in the form of donating a new pair of shoes, winter boots, socks, or something foot (walking/ journey) related. There will be a special time during worship focused on the footwear. Come ready to commit!

Next Saturday, October 10th, is our Second Saturday Serve Day. Plan to do some sort of serving with your study group that day. If you need ideas, contact Shirley Blakely at 517-676-6358. Following Second Saturday Serve, we'll be meeting at Cook Family Farms (off Jolly Road between Okemos Road and Dobie Road in Okemos) for fellowship, food, and fun. Hot dogs are being provided, please bring some snacks and beverages to share--and lawn chairs.

In a few weeks, we'll shift our focus to prayer. Dean Trune will be leading a prayer seminar here at South on October 16 and 17. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.