

“The Power of Combined Stories”

Series: “*Story*”

(Part 3)

Open: Describe a time when a big task was made easy by the help of others.

Explore: Read Proverbs 14:20; 22:2; 29:7.

Solomon was blessed by God with incredible wisdom and wealth. The book of Proverbs was written by this blessed man and offers great advice on a variety of topics; including, how to handle the poor.

1. What observation did Solomon make about the poor and the rich (v. 14:20)? How have you seen or experienced this truth in your own life?
2. How did Solomon say God views the rich and the poor (v. 22:2)? How do you think most people view the poor?
3. How did Solomon say the righteous would respond to the poor (v. 29:7)? Is it possible for a person to be poor in other areas beyond finances? Explain.

Reflect: Review the LG and discuss the questions below.

1. Who do you know that has a kingdom mindset? What qualities characterize their life?
2. God likes using ordinary people to do extraordinary things. What are some common excuses people give for not serving which prevent God from using them?
3. Often times we underestimate the power of prayer when it comes to the story of our lives. After reflecting on the lesson, what do you need to pray for today: a) God, open my eyes to the needs of those around me, b) God, increase my faith and decrease my fear to serve, or c) God, create a desire in my heart to be used?
4. When we give with no strings attached it shows that our love is authentic. In what way have you experienced the generosity of others in your group? What resources, gifts, abilities, or “stuff” do you have that are not being used which could be given away in order to help others?
5. List advantages to serving in a group rather than serving alone. How do you believe God wants to use you in the local church?

Live:

As a group: Brainstorm ways your group can be generous and then set the wheels into motion for action. Maybe your group could give away a no-longer-used washer/dryer, plate setting, vacuum cleaner, table lamps, and lawn mower to a young family in need. Call local food pantries to help identify families in need.

On your own: Look over the lesson notes. In which area do you need to grow in order to be used by God? Who do you know that would make a great partner in order to serve and meet the needs of those around you? Plan to meet and discuss one way you will serve others together.

Listening Guide Notes

The kind of people God uses...

1. Focused people.

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” –Acts 4:12 (NIV)

2. Humble people.

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” –Acts 4:13 (NIV)

^[16] “‘What are we going to do with these men?’ they asked. ‘Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. ^[17] But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name.’ ^[18] Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ^[19] But Peter and John replied, ‘Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. ^[20] For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.’” –Acts 4:16-20 (NIV)

3. Praying people.

^[23] “On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. ^[24] When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God... ^[31] After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” –Acts 4:23-24, 31 (NIV)

4. Generous people.

“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.” –Acts 4:32 (NIV)

5. People who are willing to work together