

UPSIDE DOWN GOSPEL

newlife link

Last to be First - Matthew 20:16

March 4, 2018

Pray

1. Pray for people you know who feel themselves that they are the last, the least, the lost.
2. Thank God that his kingdom is not structured around our performance and/or contributions, but entirely around God's mercy and grace. Confess to God the times you expect God to act according to your performance.

Action

1. Read Matthew 20:1-16. In your neighbourhood (at home, at work, at social gatherings) place yourself in one of the categories below. Consequently do you tend to see grace as "amazing" or as "unfair"?
 - the early morning worker,
 - 3rd hour worker,
 - 6th hour worker,
 - 9th hour worker,
 - 11th hour worker
2. Discuss ways in which you can place yourself in "last place" rather than assume "first place." If you have done so, what was that like? If it's a new idea, challenge yourself to do so (maybe make yourself accountable to the group).

Talk

1. What happens when you think of yourself among the last, the least, the lost. See Philippians 2:1-4; Galatians 6:1-6, Romans 12:3. How does that change the way you might imagine a conversation with neighbours who aren't believers.
2. Find out from a neighbour/friend/co-worker how they would react to a parable like the one Jesus told in Mt. 20:1-16. In other words, if God's world works the way of the crazy vineyard owner, do they think that's good or bad, or ridiculous?

Neighbourhood Challenge

For the six weeks to Easter we are in a church wide focus on "living Upside Down in the Neighbourhood." Living like Jesus is about living differently, or "upside down" to reflect the gospel. You are encouraged to take up this Neighbourhood Challenge as a small group and see how God works in and through you! Each week we'll be commissioned as a congregation to be on mission in our neighbourhoods, and each week when we gather we'll invite people to offer a mini "mission report."

