



Everybody Always: Take Action | July 24, 2019

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

If you're a parent, or know anything about parenting, you know that if somebody does something to a kid, they essentially do it to the parent as well. In our faith, it actually isn't that much different. Read more about how we engage with God's kids below.

Key Verses

Matthew 25:36-40 (NIV)

"I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Discussion

Sometimes, when it comes to recruiting volunteers, it's better to actively recruit the people you think would be a good fit, than to cast a wide net and hope you catch the right people. Finding volunteers for activities that deal with kids is even more challenging. In order to see if they are good with kids, it's almost necessary for you to observe them around kids to see if their heart is really in the right place. The cool thing is that if adult volunteers can "win" the kids over, you also gain a significant amount of trust with their parents.

1. Why does this "active recruiting" method make sense? What makes it more challenging than simply casting a wide net?
2. Why do you think that good relationships with kids leads to increased trust and confidence with parents?

In his book, "Everybody Always," Bob Goff talks about how God sent Jesus here to give us a framework for how we are called to interact with his kids. Jesus reminds us often in the Bible that the people around us (at work, at church, at school, etc.) are God's kids. He also tells us that God is watching to see how we interact with his kids – to discern where our heart is at, but also as a way of introducing people to him. The interesting thing is that whatever we do (or don't do) for God's kids, we also do (or don't do) for Jesus.

3. Who do you consider to be God's kids? How might God want to stretch or challenge your definition?
4. Why do you think God is so interested in how we treat his kids? What does it reveal not only about his character but also his plan for the world?

In Matthew 25:36-40, we read that whatever we do for someone overlooked and ignored, we do for Jesus as well. When we care for those around us, especially those who are normally forgotten, we put God's character on display. We show others what he looks like, so that they might come to know him as well. Bob Goff also says in his book that sometimes we get so caught up in talking about these people, instead of talking to them. If we spend more time talking to them, we get the opportunity to share God's character with them as well.

5. When was the last time you spent time with someone that society would normally forget? Describe the experience.
6. Do you find yourself thinking and talking more about these people than to them? Explain.

What's Next?

Instead of just agreeing with Jesus, if we truly want to engage our faith, we need to step out and take action for those who are normally forgotten. If we want to experience more of God, one of the best ways to do it is to care for the least of these. And it doesn't need to be fancy or eloquent. If we step out in faith to serve those around us, we can have confidence that God will show up.

This week, as you live out and engage your faith, think about where God is encouraging you to step up and take action. Think about the places in your city where God might be calling you to serve. Start with one small way you can serve someone in your community, and take one action step this week. Ask God to provide opportunities for you to serve, then go do it.