

## **Transforming Communities with Ministries of Compassion, Justice, and Mercy**

- We are burdened for the hurting people in our community and beyond.
- We have identifiable pathways for compassion, mercy and justice ministries to take place.
- Our people are equipped and growing in their ability to see and address the hurts and the causes of hurt in our community and beyond.

**\*Open:** Describe a time you had a need and someone helped you out, or describe a time you were able to help someone in need.

After checking in, share with one another where you have seen God in your life since your last meeting.

### **#Scripture:**

James 1:19-27

#Make a list of the types of people Jesus would show special care to in our community today.

What does this list tell us about being ministers to our community?

\*What issues do you feel passionate about?

#What issues do think God cares passionately about in our community?

What needs do you see in our community?

What need in our community do you feel most strongly about?

#We seek to partner with community agencies that are engaged in meaningful ministry. Which of the following are you familiar with? Bethany Christian Services, Vision House, Nourishing Network, Next Step Crisis Pregnancy Center, Everett Gospel Mission, Days for Girls, KAIROS Prison Ministry

\*What agency on this list or other community agency would you like to know more about?

Is there another ministry in our community you would like our church to consider partnering with?

Do you think it is important for our church to partner with these agencies? Why? Why not?

What difference does it make for our church to partner with these agencies? To the community? To our church?

**\*Prayer:** Make a list of needs in our community. Pray for some of these.

Pray for the ministry of our partner agencies.

Consider contacting one of the above agencies before you meet again and asking them what needs you can pray for.

**\*Benediction:** Read Matthew 25:34-40

\*Read together the Vitality Pathway prayer.

**Write down one thought from each person in your group from this week's time together.**

\* Indicates items that can be done together when you meet, choose the most meaningful items

# Indicates items to do as 'home work' prior to meeting

## **Listening and Doing**

<sup>19</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, <sup>20</sup> because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

<sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

<sup>26</sup> Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:19-27

<sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> 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.’

<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

<sup>40</sup> “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.’

Matthew 25:34:40

List of Community Ministries – you can learn more about the ministries we support by going to their websites:

Bethany Christian Services – [www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org)

Vision House – [www.visionhouse.org](http://www.visionhouse.org)

Nourishing Network – [www.foundationesd.org/nourishing-network/](http://www.foundationesd.org/nourishing-network/)

Next Step Crisis Pregnancy Center - [www.nextstepnw.com](http://www.nextstepnw.com)

Everett Gospel Mission - [www.egmission.org](http://www.egmission.org)

Days for Girls – [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org)

KAIROS Prison Ministry - [www.kairosprisonministry.org/](http://www.kairosprisonministry.org/)