

Now it's time for each person to share updates on potential service opportunities for your group.

Decide whom you will serve, how, and when. Keep in mind that group members may have differing levels of passion for the ideas you come up with. Please be flexible and focus on choosing the best opportunity for the entire group based on interest, skills, logistics, and of course God's leading.

Write down your plans here:



*Touching heaven, changing earth
with head, heart and hands*

May 10, 2015

Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

We offer these questions for reflection during the service or during your week. Ponder them yourself or share them with friends.

“Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.” – Romans 14:1, MSG

1. Why is it difficult to welcome those with whom you do not agree?
2. How can you, our church, and our denomination best welcome people who grew in different “soils” and show different spiritual fruits?
3. What is something that you can do to heal fractures or chasms in our faith communities?



“Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, “How can I help?”

– Romans 15:1-2, MSG

4. When have you been tended to and watered in faith?
5. In what areas do you need tending and watering?
6. How can you be a part of this movement of caring and nurturing others in the faith?

“For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.” – 1 Corinthians 3:9, NRSV

7. Do you feel like and act like a servant of God? If so, when? If not, would you like to be a servant of God?
8. Are you working with other servants? If so, is this a positive experience? If not, would you like to be in such community service?
9. What is God building with your life? Or what would you like God to build with your life?

Many of our GroupLife small groups are using a new curriculum tied to our worship theme, “Planting the Promise,” that includes doing a service project together. For the second session, they will use these questions as a discussion guide. If you would like to participate in a group, visit www.laumc.org/growinfaith and click on the “Find a Group” button.



Before your group discusses the list of projects and research together, reflect on this:

In the chapter “Compassion” in Father Gregory Boyle’s book *Tattoos on the Heart*, Father Boyle states:

“Scripture scholars contend that the original language of the Beatitudes should not be rendered as ‘Blessed are the single-hearted’ or ‘Blessed are the peacemakers’ or ‘Blessed are those who struggle for justice.’ Greater precision in translation would say ‘You are in the right place if—you are single-hearted or work for peace.’ The Beatitudes is not a spirituality, after all. It’s a geography. It tells us where to stand. Compassion isn’t just about feeling the pain of others; it’s about bringing them in toward yourself. If we love what God loves, then in compassion, margins get erased. ‘Be compassionate as God is compassionate’ means the dismantling of barriers that exclude.”

Discuss why “compassion” is being used to describe our week of service scheduled in October and how this interpretation of compassion might help inform your group’s decision on which worthwhile project to serve.