

To the Ends of the Earth: Week 4 — "Serving the Forgotten"

CONNECT: What was the best thing you ate over Thanksgiving?

GROW:

- 1. **Read James 2:14-17 and Luke 14:12-14.** What are the biggest challenges of caring for the poor in our communities, our country, and our world? How do you navigate those challenges?
- 2. At Southland, our goal in terms of giving is to help get people out of physical poverty so we can then address their spiritual poverty—i.e., "A hand out for a hand up." We help people because we believe God can heal people.
 - In meeting people's physical needs, how can we be intentional about making sure we're keeping in mind the end goal of helping people know Jesus?
- 3. Which one comes more naturally to you: *declaring* the gospel (talking about Jesus with others) or *demonstrating* the gospel (showing Jesus' love through serving and giving)?
- 4. Take a few moments to re-read **Acts 3**, the passage Scott talked about, in a different version than the one he read from (NLT). What stands out to you?
- 5. "Physical poverty should always serve as a reminder to us of our spiritual poverty." How does this perspective help us as we navigate the challenges of serving the forgotten and caring for the poor?
- 6. Read **Acts 4:18-20**. For years, the American church had cultural favor, but now, the cultural tides are shifting to where we are becoming more hated. How have you seen/felt that shift? What encourages you to keep pursuing Him boldly anyway?
- 7. What's been your biggest takeaway from our *To the Ends of the Earth* series?

PRAY: Using the believers' prayer in **Acts 4:29**, pray for the Lord to sustain your boldness in declaring and demonstrating the love of Jesus. Pray also for a renewed heart to serve those in both physical and spiritual poverty.

NEXT: Ask Jesus to lead you to someone "forgotten" this week. And when He does, make time to show them love and generosity, no matter how awkward or inconvenient it may be.