



[Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides! If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions below the discussion questions.]

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

JUNE 12, 2022

This is week five of our spring teaching series, “The Good and Beautiful Life,” in which we’ve been looking to Jesus and the early church to show us how to live good and beautiful lives that bless other people. Throughout this series, we’ve been reminding ourselves of five simple practices that can help us to BLESS those around us: **B**egin with prayer. **L**isten with care. **E**at together. **S**erve in love. **S**hare your story. This week, in a sermon called “The Butterfly Effect,” Pastor Bryan helps us to see that when we serve others in love, we change the world for good.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q – At the heart of Pastor Bryan’s message is the idea that when it comes to blessing other people, there’s a butterfly effect at work, meaning that even small, simple acts of service and kindness can have a major impact.

- Can you think of a time when someone performed an act of service for you that seemed small to them, but had a significant impact on your life?

Q – This week’s sermon focuses on two key Scripture texts: John 13:1-17 and Acts 9:36-42. Let’s look at the passage from John first. *[Invite someone from the group to read John 13:1-5.]*

- What do you notice about Jesus here?
- What words would you use to describe Jesus’s thoughts, words, actions, and behavior in these first few verses?

Q – Skipping down a few verses, let’s look at vv. 12-17 together. *[Invite someone from the group to read John 13:12-17.]*

- What is Jesus trying to help his disciples to understand? Why do you think it was so important to him that they understand this?

Q – Our second text for this week is found in Acts 9, the story of Tabitha. Would someone read vv. 36-39 for us?

- What do we learn about Tabitha in these verses? What can we say for sure about her?

Q – Let’s read the next few verses, vv. 40-43—would someone read those for us?

- What unexpected things happen as a result of Tabitha’s sickness and death?

Q – Luke describes Tabitha as “always doing good and helping the poor” (Acts 9:36). As followers of Jesus, we might ask ourselves if the same could be said of us.

- If it seems unlikely that anyone would say of us, “they were always doing good and helping the poor,” could that realization be an invitation to growth? Do we have any behaviors, habits, or attitudes that need to change?

Q – Near the end of the sermon, Bryan said that changing the world for good begins with each of us finding and using our gifts, passions, and story to bless the world around us.

- What is one gift, passion, or experience that you could use to serve others?
- If you are not already using this gift, passion, or experience, what is one step you can take to begin to do so?

HOW TO USE THESE STUDY GUIDES

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
 - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
 - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team.

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