

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Side by Side

Week 4: Here For Each Other
Acts 4:32-37

Week of January 30, 2022
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

"How can I bless you?" This week, we're discussing Acts 4:32-37 and the spiritual and practical nature of being there for others — helping one another in times of need through sharing our time, energy and resources.

Kicking it off:

If you stopped at a vending machine that could only sell one item, what would you want it to be? (Some possible answers: M&Ms, Snickers, Doritos, Skittles, Lays Potato Chips, Reese's Cups, etc.)

Discussion:

1. When you hear the word "selflessness" ... what comes to mind?
2. Read Acts 4:32. What can we learn from the early Christ-followers and their community? In your opinion, does their example feel realistic in our 21st Century way of living? Why or why not?

"All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had." (NLT)
3. It's been said that it's a good idea to have one of each of these friends: a *Barnabas* (who encourages you); a *Paul* (who's your peer); and a *Timothy* (whom you encourage or mentor). What are some advantages to having someone in our corner, or someone to become our "balcony" person? What kind of difference can we make when we take on that role?
4. Jeff mentioned four examples of ways that Barnabas encouraged others in the book of Acts. Which of these stories resonated the most with you?
 - *The Poor* (Acts 4:36-37)
 - *The Outcast* (Acts 9:26-27)
 - *The Beginner* (Acts 11:23, 26)
 - *The Failure* (Acts 15:37-40)
5. Have you ever been the recipient of a profound blessing? If so, share that story with your group.
6. How might your life look different if you always lived to bless others? How could that mindset positively affect the whole world if the Church lived that way?
7. What did you learn about blessing others from the video story from the McNamara family and their small group? How can we follow their group's example?

Wrapping It Up:

What's one selfless act you could do this week to bless somebody else? Pray that each member in your group would live to give, and not to get.