

THIS IS LOVE

Part 2: Serve

WEEK OF JULY 11, 2021

Serving others is about more than checking off a box or a task. It's about the relationships formed. The relationships we make are one of the clearest pictures of love we can offer one another.

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- How you view a problem determines how you address it.
- Moment of Insight: a snapshot in time when we trip over a truth.
- We engage not only with the task at hand, but with the people we are called to love.
- Relational service is what transforms lives.
- Romans chapter 12, verse 9-18 = love in action
- Throughout scripture, God demonstrates his desire to not only meet humans' needs, but also to sit with them in their crucible moments.
- There is mutual transformation that occurs when people engage in relational service.
- Don't settle for checking another service task off your list.
- Franciscan Blessing:

May God bless you with restless discomfort about easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships so you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart. May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and the exploitation of people so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people. May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and the loss of all they cherish so you may reach out with your hand to transform their pain into joy. And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really can make a difference in this world so that you are able with God's grace to do what others claim cannot be done.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you recall a "moment of insight" you've had that changed the way you thought about something or made you realize there's a different way than what you've been doing? This could be anything from your outlook on life to the way you load the dishwasher.
2. How often do you find yourself doing the "right" thing or a good thing, but you've just made it a box to check off your to-do list?
3. When you've gone through something difficult (losing a job, a break-up, a health complication, etc.), who do you remember showing up for you and loving you? Did they make an impact beyond just meeting a physical need?
4. What would it look like for you to serve someone relationally (listen to them, connect with them beyond "the task") in the near future?
5. Looking at the Franciscan blessing, which part speaks to you the most right now and why?