



IMAGINE IF...

Seizing the Opportunities

#NPIImagine

Week 3
3 of 4
August 21, 2016

Bottom Line: You're made of a spirit, a soul, and a body, and we believe ministry involves those three things.

Icebreaker: When is a time that someone has supported you or met a physical need for you?

Key Verse: *And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.* Matthew 10:42

We believe in a holistic view of mankind. We are made up of body, soul, and spirit. The body corresponds to our physical needs, the soul to our emotional needs (you can think about this as the heart), and our spirit, which relates back to God. Often Christians get a bad rap as people who only care about the spiritual needs of others. While we can objectively say that our spiritual needs are our deepest needs, that does not leave physical and emotional needs out in the dark.

God cares about *every part* of you. He is indifferent to no part of your experience. As we see from the life of Jesus, He addressed all three. In the Scripture above, we see Jesus making a call for us to meet physical needs. But beyond that, the incarnation of Jesus Christ shows us the value and worth of our physical bodies. When we are resurrected at the end of all things, we will have physical, material bodies. They matter.

When we see the woman at the well in John 4 or Jairus who lost his daughter in Mark 5, Jesus meets them where they are and does not dismiss their emotions. He cares for them just as He wept with Mary and Martha at the death of their brother and Jesus' friend in John 11. Our emotions matter to Jesus.

Lastly, when Jesus came on the scene and began to minister, it was with the words "repent and believe the good news" in Mark 1. This is a statement calling for us to find our spiritual needs met in Him. To repent is to turn from our way of living and embrace Jesus' forgiveness, which reconciles us to God. Our spiritual needs matter. In our time together today, we are going to look at all three areas and think about why they matter.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on the message, what stood out to you?

The pastor said there are three ways we minister: connecting with God, connecting with other believers, and connecting others to God. He also said there are three areas of needs we can minister to: physical needs, emotional needs, and spiritual needs.

Jesus spoke about caring for disciples. Why should we meet the needs of those who are in the community of faith first before moving into the outside world? Why does this not give us license to ignore those outside of the church?

Meeting needs often creates an opening to share the gospel with other people. Have you ever seen this happen in your own life? Share your experience.

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Every Christian is a minister of the gospel in some way. How are you taking this responsibility seriously and seizing the opportunities in front of you?

As we minister, we can serve the Lord through serving both believers and unbelievers. What is an example of each type of ministry at NewPointe?

Do you feel more called to minister to physical, emotional, or spiritual needs? Why does the church need people who are called to do all three?

What are some ways we in the church have abdicated our responsibility to meet needs to civic authorities? What would change if the church really took up the mantle of care and service?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. Think together about how we as a group can meet physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in our community. Who feels a particular call to one of these areas and would like to support our efforts there? Process together and see what opportunities can be seized over the new few months.
2. Praise God for caring about the redemption of the whole person – physical, emotional, and spiritual. Ask that He would richly meet the needs of those in the group with His grace. Pray that He would make known to us the places where we can plug in and meet others' needs in order to make Him known.

EVALUATION/ACTION **Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ**

Bottom Line: You're made of a spirit, a soul, and a body, and we believe ministry involves those three things.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Matthew 25:31-40

Day 2: Matthew 25:41-46

Day 3: 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

Day 4: 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Day 5: Colossians 1:28-29

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)