



MOMENTUM

The Root of the Problem

#npmomentum

Week 3

3 of 4

January 21, 2018

Bottom Line: We want NewPointe to be the hands, feet, and voice in our communities.

Icebreaker: What was the very first job where you earned money? How old were you? Do you remember how much you were paid?

Key Verse: *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*
Matthew 25:40

Do you remember the story of Esther, the young Jewish girl who was part of the captive Jewish nation in Persia? She was just an ordinary girl, amidst struggling people. Unexpectedly, God gave her an opportunity to do something that could make a monumental difference, but it was risky, and would cost her. As she considered just staying where she was and not making waves or losing comfort, her uncle urged her to reconsider. "Who knows?" he said. "Perhaps you have come to the kingdom for just this very time."

At NewPointe, we believe that. We believe that we are placed in our culture at this very time because God has a plan to use us in our struggling world. Often our desires are big, but we just don't know what to do. We don't know where to start. And we certainly don't want to leave them worse off than before because our good intentions didn't lead in the right direction.

We will not say, "Somebody should do something." We believe that the hope of the world is living and teaching the truth of Jesus Christ, so we will do something. We will love others out of whatever type of poverty disables them into a place of wholeness and life. We will give to others what has been given to us.

Together we are working to empower the people Jesus loves by meeting physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. We know Jesus has called us to serve people, not save them; to relate to people, not rescue them; to reach out to them, not down to them. As we do this, we are serving Jesus Christ Himself.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What part of the weekend message impacted you most? What part made you most uncomfortable or challenged?

Discuss: "Most Americans define poverty as a lack of something material. However, in a survey of 60,000 deeply impoverished people in low income countries, poverty was defined as a mindset. They said it was a deep sense of shame, a feeling of worthlessness, fear, humiliation, being trapped, and hopelessness."

Discuss: "Sometimes a handout is more disempowering and insulting than it is helpful."

Discuss: "The root of all poverty is brokenness."

What kinds of brokenness do you see in the people around you? How does our message address these areas?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

A counseling mantra for helpers says: "You didn't cause it, you can't control it, you can't cure it. There's one Savior, and He's not you." How does that apply to our responsibility for the impoverished world?

Consider this: "It is insulting and dangerous to think that we are someone's answer."

Discuss: "We don't save people, we serve people. Jesus saves people. He is the power. We are the conduit."

There are two parts of serving people in an empowering fashion. They are different and equally important: 1) Relief—immediate and temporary help to sustain others through a crisis. 2) Restoration—long-term relationship to rebuild wholeness. To only do the first part robs people of dignity and disempowers.

How have you known this to be true?

NEXT STEPS

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

1. Identify a relief effort where you will serve.
2. Identify a restoration program where you will serve.

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

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Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		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 25:40

Day 2: Proverbs 19:17

Day 3: 1 John 3:17-18

Day 4: Luke 4:18-19

Day 5: Luke 12:33-34

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)