

Discussion Guide Red Letter Challenge — Part 4 PARTICIPANT GUIDE

"Great occasions for serving God come seldom, but little ones surround us daily."

[Francis de Sales]

ENGAGE & CONNECT

Share about a time when someone's small act of love made an impact on your life.

OPTIONAL DEVOTIONAL RECAP

What is one thing that God taught you, convicted you of, or invited you to begin doing as you read the devotional last week?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

"Serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Acknowledge that the Lord is God. He made us, and we are his—his people, the sheep of his pasture."

[Psalm 100:2-3]

BIG IDEA

What Jesus did on earth, He now does through His people who have His Spirit. God draws us IN to send us OUT!

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION

John 14:9-18

- 1. How does Jesus' statement, "The one who has seen me has seen the Father" challenge or affirm your understanding of God's nature?
- 2. What does Jesus mean by saying believers will do "greater works" than He has done?
- 3. In the sermon we heard, "Jesus wants to demonstrate His Kingdom through us!" How do you typically respond to hearing something like this? Do you tend to accept this invitation with joy, doubt that God can work though you, or have another response?
- 4. How can we align our prayers with God's will to ensure we are praying "in His name? How can we pray with the same confidence that Jesus promises"? (v. 13-14)
- 5. How does the promise of the Holy Spirit as a "Counselor" enhance our understanding of God's care and provision for us?
- 6. In what ways do you struggle with trusting that the Holy Spirit is present with you? How can the promise of the Holy Spirit transform how we approach challenges in our spiritual walk?

- 7. How does serving others help us understand and experience the love of God in deeper ways? How can you cultivate a "holy ambition" for service in your church or community?
- 8. How can you ensure that your service is rooted in prayer and dependence on God rather than in your own efforts?
- 9. How does the promise of the Holy Spirit challenge you to step out in faith in areas where you may feel inadequate or unsure?
- 10. How does understanding that you are part of a "family of servants" shift your perspective on your role in our church? How can we as a group better reflect the reality of Christ's presence and the Holy Spirit's work in our collective mission?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

Rather than "God, help me do greater so I can be happier", what if we reframed our hearts to this: "Because God has greatly loved me, I aim to offer His great love to others." As Jesus commanded His disciples, "I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35).

Based on the Holy Spirit's wisdom, what is a step of obedience that you can take? Here are a few additional questions to consider so we can make ourselves *available* to the Lord ...

- How does God want to work through your UNIQUE life?
- How can you start SMALL right where you are?
- How can you **SERVE** others in Jesus' name?
 - As a member of a FAMILY —> see a need, meet a need!
 - As part of a TEAM serve using your spiritual gifts!

PRAYER FOCUS

Jesus' Mission Through Us

- Let's reflect for a moment on how Jesus lived on earth serving, healing, teaching, and showing love to all. Through His death and resurrection, He gave us the incredible gift of the Holy Spirit. As His followers, we are called to continue His work, empowered by His Spirit.
- Let's take a moment to thank God for drawing us into His presence. Let's also ask Him to fill us afresh with His Spirit, to guide us to share His love with those around us, and for courage to be His hands and feet, reaching those in need of His love and grace.

MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock.

(Matthew 7:24-25)

RLC RESOURCES

- Rock Bridge RLC Website → <u>rockbridge.cc/red</u>
- Red Letter Disciple Podcast → HERE