

Creating Options Together

“The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community.”

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, LIFE TOGETHER: THE CLASSIC EXPLORATION OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Trillions of dollars have been spent to end poverty in this country, with little effect. Poverty continues to ensnare generations of individuals and families. Yet, God’s call to His people, to care for those caught in poverty’s web, is unchanged. The solution is rooted in the very nature of God and in the way Jesus lived out His ministry.

The Trinity—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—who lives in perfect peace, purpose and relationship, demonstrate the fundamental power of living in community. Jesus was intimately acquainted with those among whom He ministered. His continual interaction with people in need is not meant to be simply inspirational, but rather, instructive in the way He calls us to live.

Becoming an options creator starts by building relationships with those who live in systems and situations that make it difficult to flourish. God is calling us to approach the complexity of poverty first as a learner and then, rather than attempting to “fix” the problem, to be in relationship and partnership with those on the margins. We’ll explore the blessings for those who choose to orient their lives in this way. The following Bible study will help us understand the impact that arises from becoming options creators.

Scripture

Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your

4. How does being loved by God invite us to “set the oppressed free”?

 Watch

 15 MINUTES



VIDEO

“Creating Options Together”

 15 MINUTES

Discussion

1. What are your first impressions from the video? How did it make you feel?
2. What is appealing to you about the small group in Denver?
3. What is similar or different in your personal experience from that of the small group shown in the video?

4. How could you benefit or how have you benefited from relationships with people from different racial and economic backgrounds?

5. How can your identity in Christ overcome social awkwardness?

6. How could a relational partnership with those who are marginalized be helpful in meeting needs?

7. How could our cities and churches be transformed by relationships like this?

Practice

READ Read Module 7: What's Next?

PRAY Take time to pray and ask God for direction. What might He be inviting you to do as a result of this study?

JOURNAL As you pray, read and listen to the Lord around Module 7, write down your feelings, impressions, questions, concerns and action points.

DO We will discuss what God is leading you to do during the next session.