

## **The Extra Mile**

Luke 5:17-26

### **INTENTION**

*Group members will discover that investing in the welfare of others for the sake of the Kingdom of God is worth the effort. They will be challenged to reprioritize their "spare" time so that they can maximize the returns on their efforts.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

*This section will introduce the topic by getting the group thinking about their closest and best friend and how that relationship developed.*

1. Play the Dr. Pepper commercial found on YouTube under the search address: "Dr. Pepper Commercial: I would do anything for love."  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6SoqMPhDXQ>
2. Say: Ask group members to think about their closest friendship outside their family.
3. Ask: Allow various group members share answers to the following questions:
  - a. Who is one of your "best/ closest" friend and how long have you been friends
  - b. What has made that friendship so strong?
  - c. Is this a friend that you would do just about anything for?
  - d. Where do you draw the line on what you would do?

### **INVESTIGATION**

*This section helps group members try to discover the identity of the men who helped their friend in the Scripture passage.*

1. Say: Any good drama/intrigue story starts out with normal, everyday circumstances and develops into a story that brings its characters places they never expected to go. That's exactly what happens as the story unfolds for us in the story we are about to consider.
2. Read: Have a volunteer read Luke 5:17-26.
3. Have someone re-tell the story to the group.
4. Now ask the following questions as everyone examines the passage and looks for the answers: (*Note: there is no known answer to these questions*)
  - a. Who does the passage say these men were?
  - b. Why does the passage say they were willing to do what they did?
  - c. How many of them were there?
  - d. What were some of their names?
  - e. According to the passage, did the men witness the miraculous healing?
  - f. What does it say the men did after the paralytic was healed?
5. Ask: Considering how little we know about these guys:
  - a. What do you think was important to them? (*Getting their friend help*)
  - b. What was not important to them? (*Getting attention or credit*)

### **INTERACTION**

*This section encourages group members to think about their motivation for serving others and God.*

1. Ask:
  - a. Can you name some Hollywood stars that are publicity hounds? Explain.
  - b. Do you think there are everyday people who thirst for recognition and attention? What are some examples?
2. Have a volunteer read Matthew 6:1 and ask:
  - a. What does Jesus tell his followers to do?
  - b. How are people robbing themselves if their motivation is to get credit?

## **INTERPRETATION**

*This section gets group members thinking about risk verses reward.*

1. Brainstorm: Lead your group members to coming up with ideas on:
  - a. The possible risks the men in this story had to take.
  - b. The sacrifices they may have had to make.
2. Speculate: Now have group members conjecture:
  - a. Why they did what they did: What was their motivation?
  - b. How they felt after they did it.
3. Analysis:
  - a. Why was the reward worth the risk to these men?
  - b. According to Luke 5:20 what moved Jesus to grant this man forgiveness of his sins?
  - c. Whose faith moved Jesus to do what he did?
  - d. What does this say about what God feels about our role in the lives of others? Explain.

## **INTEGRATION**

*This section gets the group to begin to think about the practical implications of this passage.*

1. Ask: Allow group members to describe themselves by asking the following:
  - a. Do consider yourself a people person or a project person? Explain.
  - b. Why is it good to be a people person?
  - c. Why is it good to be a project person?
2. Discuss: Lead group members in discussing the following:
  - a. If we were all people oriented what would the world be like?
  - b. If we were all project oriented what would the world be like?
3. Say: Obviously, like the men in our story who were both moved by the love of their friend and activated by the need to make a plan to help him, we need to maintain a balance of:
  1. Seeing people the way God sees them, with a heart of compassion.
  2. Allowing compassion to move us to deliberately make a plan and take risks to see it accomplished.

## **APPLICATION**

*This section allows group members to examine their priorities and to make adjustments with eternal values in mind.*

4. Share: Pass out pencils and index cards to the group
5. Close by giving the group a few minutes to think about and write down:
  - a. Who God may have placed in their life that he wants them to share the love of Christ with and
  - b. How they might change their priorities to make that happen
6. Allow volunteers to share what they have written.
7. Close by reminding the group that our part is to act in the name of Jesus. God's part is to work miracles in their lives.
8. Close by allowing group members to pray for each other.