

# *Urban Immersion*

## *Detroit*

*Devotional Guide*

*Courtesy of Here's Life Inner City Atlanta*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<a href="#"><u>Day One: God's Heart for the City</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Day Two: God's Heart for Children</u></a>	4
<a href="#"><u>Day Three: God's Heart for the Poor</u></a>	5
<a href="#"><u>Day Four: Racial Reconciliation</u></a>	6
<a href="#"><u>Day Five: Reaching the World through the City</u></a>	7
<a href="#"><u>Good to Go!</u></a>	8

## **GOD'S HEART FOR THE CITY**

### **Day One**

Read: Jonah chapter 1-4

- 1) Where did God want Jonah to go and why? Why was the city of Nineveh in danger? Ch. 1.1, 2
- 2) What was Jonah's response and why?
- 3) What kind of city was Nineveh? Ch. 3.3; (Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, a pagan nation that God used to judge Israel).
- 4) What happened when Jonah warned Nineveh of the judgment to come? Ch. 3.4-10
- 5) Read Genesis 19. 24-28; Isaiah 13.17-22. How does God deal with those cities that do not repent of their wickedness?
- 6) What was God's response to their repentance? Ch. 3.10. What was Jonah's response? Why do you think he reacted this way? 4.1-2
- 7) Read chapter 4 again. What did Jonah know to be true about God? What seems to be true about Jonah?
- 8) What lesson did God want Jonah to learn from the plant? Cf. Matthew 9.10-13.

### ***Application***

⇒ ***What is my attitude towards the city and the people who live in it?***

⇒ ***Does it accurately reflect God's heart ?***

## **GOD'S HEART FOR CHILDREN**

### **Day Two**

Read Matthew 18.1-7

- 1) What were the disciples arguing about (cf. Mk 9.33-37)?
- 2) Who was Jesus' example of greatness?
- 3) What was it that Jesus wanted them to learn from this child?
- 4) How does God feel about the care and safety of children? Mt. 18.6,10.
- 5) How valuable is one child to God?
- 6) How did Jesus respond to children? Mk. 10.13-15
- 7) What is the warning for those who would mistreat or harm children? Mt. 18.6, 10
- 8) What do we show about the character of God when we love and care for children? Psm. 68.5, 6

### ***Application***

- ⇒ ***Am I willing to develop and maintain a childlike spirit before God? How would that change my relationship with God?***
- ⇒ ***Do I value and respect the children in my life and around me as God would have me to?***
- ⇒ ***What am I doing to help "raise the foundations of many generations" (Isa. 58.12)?***

## GOD'S HEART FOR THE POOR

### Day Three

- 1) Who are the Poor? Job 24.1-11,14; Isa. 1.23b
  
- 2) Why are they poor? I Tim. 6.9, 10; Job 24.1-8; Proverbs 6.6-11
  
- 3) How does God view these people?
  - ◆ Exodus 22.25-27
  - ◆ Deuteronomy 24.15; Psalm 68.5; 69.32-33
  - ◆ I Samuel 2.7, 8
  - ◆ Proverbs 17.5; 14.31-32
  
- 4) How does God intend for the poor to be cared for?
  - ◆ Deuteronomy 15.4, 7-11
  - ◆ Exodus 23.10-11
  - ◆ Leviticus 19.9, 10, 15; 25.35
  - ◆ Psalm 82.3-4
  - ◆ Acts 4.32-37
  - ◆ II Corinthians 8.13-15; 9.6-15
  
- 5) What should be my attitude towards those in need?
  - ◆ Deuteronomy 15.7-11; 24.1-16
  - ◆ Job 31.16-23
  - ◆ Proverbs 14.21, 31
  - ◆ Luke 3.8, 10-11
  - ◆ James 2.1, 2
  
- 6) What will result in my life from serving the poor and seeking justice for them?
  - ◆ Isaiah 58; Matthew 25.31-40

### ***Application***

⇒ ***Do I value people in need around me the way God does?***

⇒ ***What can I do to give God worship He accepts by actively loving those He loves who are in need?***

**RACIAL RECONCILIATION**  
**Day Four**

1) Read: II Corinthians 5. 14-21.

- ◇ What did it cost God to reconcile us to Himself? v.14, 21
- ◇ What motivated Christ to pay that price? v. 14
- ◇ What should be the results in our lives? v. 15-17

2) Read: Ephesians 2:11-20.

- ◇ What two groups are in conflict in this passage?
- ◇ How does Christ resolve that conflict?
- ◇ What things have changed now that they are in Christ?

3) Read: Philippians 2.1-8.

- ◇ What can we learn from this passage about how to relate to those who are different from us in the Body of Christ?
- ◇ What attitudes should we have toward others?
- ◇ How would obeying this passage change the way you view those who are different or even enemies?

4) Read: I Corinthians 13

- ◇ How could practicing Christ-like, Spirit filled love help you to be reconciled to others?

***Application***

***Pray and ask the Lord to show you individuals and or groups of people to whom you need to be reconciled. Ask God what steps you need to take in order for Him to make peace in you and with the other person(s).***

## REACHING THE WORLD THROUGH THE CITY

### Day Five

Read: Acts 1:8

- 1) Where did Jesus do most of His ministry? Matt. 11.1; Matt. 11.20-24; Mk. 1.38, 39
- 2) Why do you think He did this?
- 3) Paul's missionary journeys took him from city to city in southern Asia and Europe. Why was this so strategic?
- 4) Read Acts 2.1-13, 37-42. What was happening in Jerusalem at the time? Who was there?
- 5) Why was this such a strategic time and place for the gospel to go forward?
- 6) What are some of the ethnic and national groups represented in your city? At your school?
- 7) Could you possibly help reach another country by reaching your own city or campus? How?
- 8) Who does God say will be worshipping Him in heaven one day? Rev. 7.9, 10

### ***Application***

⇒ ***Am I willing to take the gospel to people of any class or culture in the city?***

⇒ ***What can I do to learn more about other cultures in my city or on campus?***

⇒ ***What steps can I take to help reach the world through reaching my city?***

## **GOOD TO GO!**

As we prepare to go back to our own cities or campuses, we want to have a plan of action to put into practice some of the things we have learned this week. The following are some questions to help you in that process.

- 1) What have I learned this week about God's heart for the city?
  - What can I do to help make Christ known among the people in my city who don't know right from wrong?
- 2) What did I learn about God's heart for children this week?
  - Who are the children God has placed in my life? What can I do to help them come to know Christ and grow to maturity in Christ?
- 3) What did I learn about God's heart for the poor?
  - What can I do this year, semester, month, to worship God in a way He accepts by ministering to the poor?
  - Is there someone in my family, church, or community to whom I can show God's love in a tangible practical way?
- 4) What did I learn about God's example of reconciliation?
  - Is there a person(s), a racial or ethnic group against whom I hold a grudge, a superior attitude or even hatred in my heart?
  - What steps can I take to be reconciled to them? When?
- 5) What is my vision for ministry now? Has God spoken to me about the needs of the city and the people who live there?
  - Pray and ask God to show you if He wants you to go to the city and help reach the world there.

***Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall rise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.***

***Isaiah 58:12***