



Greater Things

Follow - Part 2 Study Guide

Unified teams can accomplish greater things. For the church, that means it's vitally important to find your place on a serving team. These are a few of the things we've learned so far in this series. But when something doesn't go your way or an unexpected situation happens, this can cause bitterness to rise up in us. This week we learn that part of having greater unity is being able to work through conflict and extend grace to others, like we would in a family.

1. Think of a time when someone got your food or coffee order wrong. How did that make you feel and how did you react?

“...But David strengthened himself
in the Lord his God.”
- 1 Samuel 30:6 (ESV)

2. **Read 1 Samuel 30:1-8.** When tragedy strikes, when we are tricked, or when something doesn't turn out how we expected, it's easy for us to react harshly to the situation. Compare the reaction of David's men with how David reacted. Which one of those reactions do you normally lean towards?
3. **Read Hebrews 12:15.** Bitterness leads to division, but grace leads to unity. Whenever an unwanted situation arises in our lives, we have the choice of bitterness or grace. This verse tells us that bitterness, if left unchecked, will grow down deep into us like a root, which will then spring up at unwanted times. Think of an area of bitterness in your life (maybe your job, your family, an ex-spouse, or someone from church). God will work in your life when you extend grace in that area. How can you show grace in that situation, just as Christ showed us grace?

“...‘for as his share is who goes down into the battle, so shall
his share be who stays by the baggage.
They shall share alike.’”
- 1 Samuel 30:24 (ESV)

4. **Read 1 Samuel 30:21-26.** There were 200 men who didn't fight. There were 400 who won the battle and reclaimed what was lost. David declared that everyone, whether they battled or were too exhausted to fight, should share in the victory. We need to follow that example and refresh and restore others. Part of that is not being afraid to admit where you need restoration. What areas of your life need restoration? How is God positioning you to restore others?
5. We are called to be the ones who restore our community. Jesus tells us that they will know God's love when we demonstrate it. This week, ask God where you need to forgive and extend grace. Also, as you go through your week, keep your eyes open for people who could use a little restoration. Prepare yourself to be generous, to refresh others, and to help them share in the victory. This is how the love of Jesus will impact our communities, and we will see greater things!