

Small Group Questions
March 12th, 2023
Community Serve Day

Matthew 5:1-12 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19

As needed, refer to the [Order of Worship resources](#) for sermon video, message outline, and small group question print out.

CONNECT WITH GOD (Choose this practice or use a practice from a previous week.)

Journal: Read the *Prayer of St. Francis*.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

—*St. Francis of Assisi*

Respond and Reflect: Write your own prayer that reflects the themes of St. Francis' prayer and connects your life to the needs of your community and the world today.

CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER

Spend 10-15 minutes sharing with one another your own reflections about the *Prayer of St. Francis* and your own re-imagining of the prayer for your life today. You may do this in smaller groups of 3-4 or as a whole group.

CONNECT WITH SCRIPTURE (Read the passages and then select the best questions or customize the questions for your group.)

- Read Matthew 5:1-12 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (theme for CSD).
- What is the kingdom of heaven and what does it mean to be a part of it?
- What's so upside-down about the blessings of Jesus?
- Discuss the connections and differences between the two passages. How do they challenge you?
- What does Paul mean by "*life that is truly life*" (1 Timothy 6:19)?
- How do you put your hope in God *now* and in your everyday life (1 Timothy 6:17)?

CONNECT WITH GOD'S MISSION IN THE WORLD

- Where did you serve on Sunday?
- Share your stories of Community Serve Day.
- How has CSD connected you more deeply to the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)?
- How has God shaped you through this CSD experience?

PRAYER

Pray for the sites and ministries that you served on Sunday. Pray that God teach you through your service and that you are transformed because of it.