

# **MOVE**

Sermon Based Small Group Study  
August & September 2018  
Northeast Christian Church

## Welcome

The Church is not a building. It's a people on mission for Jesus.

In today's world, what does it mean to be part of the Church? What does it mean to be a "member"? In this series, we are going to define what it means to be on mission with Northeast. In the past membership was little more than a piece of paper. We think it can be so much more.

In this series, we want to challenge your group to take the next step. We will be discussing some touchy subjects. We want to encourage you to have honest, open conversations about these things. More than that, we want your group to encourage each other to take a step together. Scripture calls us to "spur one another on to love and good deeds." We think that this series is a great way to do that.

In back of this packet is a personal measurement tool for you to pinpoint where you are in your commitment level. We encourage everyone to participate in this. During the last session of this study, we will be discussing those and talking about how your group can help you going forward.

Also, there are some additional reading resources in the very back of this study. These are great books and resources for you to continue your study.

As always, we are here to help. Have questions? Let us know.

*-Northeast Small Groups Team*

## How to Use these Sessions

All of our Small Group sessions are formatted the same. Each week is broken down into four parts: Theme Introduction, Group Opener, Group Discussion, and Action Steps.

- The **Big Idea** is the one thing that we want everyone to walk away with. If you had to summarize the entire study in one sentence, this is it.
- The **Group Opener** is a way to get the conversation going. Don't worry – we won't make you do any goofy group exercises and do any bad youth group ice-breaker games. However, this allows everyone in your group to get to know each other in a different way and to feel comfortable.
- The **Group Discussion** is the heart of your group study. This is where we will dig into God's Word and discuss how it applies to our lives.
- The **Action Steps** are the place where we see how what we have learned impacts our lives during the week.

You may not get to all of the different questions and topics within your discussion guide and that's just fine. It is more important that your group has a deep and fruitful conversation than completing all of the questions.

## SESSION 1

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# GENEROSITY

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### **BIG IDEA**

Our God is a generous God. He has given us everything we have. We are called to be generous with our resources.

### **GROUP OPENER**

Share a time with your group when someone was incredibly generous with you. How did that make you feel? What did that compel you to do in the future?

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Discussing generosity and giving can make us very uncomfortable. Yet, Jesus spoke about money all the time. Why is it such a challenge for many of us to discuss our giving?
- Many of us have been reluctant to give to a Church in the past. Why is that?
- If you give to Northeast on a consistent basis, share with your group why you give.
- Scripture is full of teaching on generosity. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. What principle is shown to us here?
- Do you think we will always be rewarded for our giving in a tangible financial way? Why or why not?
- What kind of blessings have you received from God from faithful, consistent financial giving?
- Read Proverbs 11:24-25. Have you found this true in your life? How does this relate to being generous - not just with your money - but with your other resources?
- Tyler talked this weekend about the “Generosity Ladder.” How do you think you would grow by taking another step up the ladder? (You can see the generosity ladder on the next page for a reminder.)

### **ACTION STEPS**

*As a Group*

- Pray for those in your group.

*On Your Own*

- Have you considered giving to Northeast online? To sign up, visit [necchurch.org/give](http://necchurch.org/give)
- If you haven't given consistently in the past, consider participating in the 90-Day Giving Challenge. It is simply giving consistently for a 90 day period to Northeast. If you feel like it wasn't a good use of your money, we'll give it back.

## Session 1

### CHALLENGE CARD

*Identify what level you are currently serving at. Consider how you can move to the next level.*

*\*Note to Leaders: The first three levels of each commitment area are the ones that we want each of our groups to focus on. However, as group leaders, you are likely at level 3 in most areas. So, we have included the full 5 levels in this commitment card as a way of spurring you on to further growth.*

**Level 1 - Initial** - making a first and one-time gift to NECC.

An off-season exception to the Christmas Eve offering for those who might be skeptical about giving to a church (all these funds go outside the church)

**Level 2 - Consistent** - giving a predetermined amount or percentage six or more times a year.

**Level 3 - Intentional** - giving 10% of one's income on a monthly basis.

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**Level 4 - Sacrificial** - asks "how much can I give?" rather than, "how much am I supposed to give?" 10% is the baseline of generosity as they seek to move beyond that. Makes changes that cost them something in their lifestyle so that they can be more generous than the baseline.

**Level 5 - Legacy** - thinking past this year and moving toward long-term impact for their local church, their family, and eternity. They make decisions in the short-term that have longer-term effects on their giving capacity.

Use this code to link to [necchurch.org](http://necchurch.org) for giving opportunities

## SESSION 2

# SERVANTHOOD

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### BIG IDEA

Jesus shows us that we are to imitate His life of service to others.

### GROUP OPENER

Share with your group a time when you had a really great experience serving someone else. It doesn't have to be anything earth-shaking, but serving often has incredible rewards no matter how big or small.

### GROUP DISCUSSION

- We live in a world that is often consumed with putting yourself first and helping anyone else later. Why does sacrificial service seem so unusual to others today?
- Read Mark 10:35-45. Like so many other times in Scripture, the disciples just didn't get it. What does this episode reveal about their hearts?
- How can you identify with the disciples here? Have you ever approached Church as a place for you to be served?
- Jesus is the great Servant-Leader. What does His humility and His willingness to serve show us about greatness?
- As followers of Jesus, what are we showing to the world when we serve in the community?
- We talk so often about serving outside the four walls of our church, but serving in the church is incredibly important as well. Why is that?
- If you serve within the church, does it make you feel like you are more than just an attender? Does it help you to feel like this is your church?

### ACTION STEPS

#### *As a Group*

- Pray for those in your group.
- Discuss some ways that your group could serve together in the next few weeks. This could be a one-time thing but we encourage you to find something that you could do regularly.

#### *On Your Own*

- Are you currently serving anywhere? If not, consider joining us at BE: A Conversation about Belonging and Engaging at Northeast, to find some ways that you could serve here at Northeast. For more, visit [necchurch.org/BE](http://necchurch.org/BE)

## Session 2

### CHALLENGE CARD

*Identify what level you are currently serving at. Consider how you can move to the next level.*

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**Level 1 - Initial** - serve at a one-time event.

Examples: School Blitz, Clifton Blitz, volunteer at on-campus conference, Christmas Eve team, volunteer at retreat, etc.

**Level 2 - Consistent** - Trial and Training.

Get on a serving team with accountability and a regular schedule.

**Level 3 - Intentional** - Commitment to “my” ministry in my area of giftedness.

Serve on a team with accountability and regular schedule as well as make an annual commitment to that team.

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**Level 4 - Lead a Serving Team** - as a believer an individual takes on the leadership of a team that fulfills a specific role within the church (on-campus or outreach)

**Level 5 - Coach Other Team Leaders** - provide training, feedback, mentoring, and leadership to a set of leaders across multiple teams

Use this code to link to [necchurch.org](http://necchurch.org) for serving opportunities

## SESSION 3

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# COMMUNITY

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### **BIG IDEA**

We were created for community with others.

### **GROUP OPENER**

Share with your group a time when your community really surrounded you. Maybe it was a personal crisis. Maybe it was a major life-event such as having a baby. How did that community care for you?

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Most people are simply looking for a place to belong. In your opinion, why are so many in society lonely today?
- In your experience, has the Church been a good place for that? Why or why not?
- How has your small group helped you to find community at Northeast?
- In your own words, what does deep, intimate community look like? Is your group meeting that definition?
- Read Hebrews 10:23-25. After reading that passage, what would be a good biblical definition of community?
- What are some ways that your group can move to look more like this definition of biblical community?
- Is your community open for new people? Why or why not?
- How could your group grow to become more welcoming for people who need to find their place?

### **ACTION STEPS**

#### *As a Group*

- Pray for those in your group.
- Consider planning a community night - a time where your group gets together just for fun.

#### *On Your Own*

- Consider this week how you can encourage one or more people in your group. You could send a short note or text of encouragement or buy someone coffee. It doesn't have to be big but it can make a huge difference to someone in your group.
- Think of a friend or family member that needs community in their life. Consider how you can invite them to your group.

## Session 3

### CHALLENGE CARD

*Identify what level you are currently serving at. Consider how you can move to the next level.*

*\*Note to Leaders: The first three levels of each commitment area are the ones that we want each of our groups to focus on. However, as group leaders, you are likely at level 3 in most areas. So, we have included the full 5 levels in this commitment card as a way of spurring you on to further growth.*

**Level 1 - Initial** - Attend a one-time large group event. (Retreat, Conference, etc.)

**Level 2 - Consistent** - Participate in a short-term community event. Generally, mid-sized group with specified end date. (Next Level, Bible Studies, on-campus short-term training electives)

**Level 3 - Intentional** - Join a Small Group.

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**Level 4 - Lead a Small Group**  
(Must be a baptized believer)

**Level 5 - Coach Small Group Leaders**

Use this code to link to [necchurch.org](http://necchurch.org) for community opportunities.



## SESSION 4

# LABOR DAY WEEKEND

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### **BIG IDEA**

It's time to get serious about what we've been talking about. We want to challenge your group to serve someone this week. We want to use some of the principles that we've learned over this series and start putting them into action.

You can use this session one of two ways:

1) Your group can get together to plan your group service. Have a relaxed session with a meal, pool ideas, and set a concrete date to go out and serve with one another.

Or

2) Your group can use this session to go out and serve. If you use this week to serve, use the following questions as a great way to recap your service together over a meal or in conversation.

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Go around the group and have everyone answer this question: What was the best part of your service together?
- What did you learn the most from serving with one another?
- Who do you think benefitted the most from what you did? Why?
- How can your group make serving a regular rhythm in your group calendar?
- Who is going to coordinate your serving opportunities going forward?

### **ACTION STEPS**

*As a Group*

- Pray for those in your group.

*On Your Own*

- Think of how you can be more servant-minded in your everyday life. It could just be something small - helping someone at work. Small acts done with great love can change the world.
- Make sure you have filled out the personal evaluation form at the back of this study. We will be discussing it next week.

## SESSION 5

September 8 & 9  
WEEKEND

# COMMITMENT DAY

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### **BIG IDEA**

Being a stakeholder at Northeast takes commitment.

### **GROUP OPENER**

Share with your group a time when you made a commitment that you regretted. It could be something small - like helping someone move to a new house. Did you follow through with it?

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

- What is something that has changed in your life for the better since coming to Northeast?
- Who are one or two people that have really impacted your walk with Jesus that you've met through Northeast?
- If you have committed to it, share with your group why you have decided to be a stakeholder at Northeast.
- Take a look at your personal evaluation form. What are some areas that you need to grow in?
- If you are comfortable, share with your group some of the growth goals that you have set for yourself or your family?
- How can your group help you to stay committed to the things you have decided to move on? What are some tangible ways that they can hold you accountable?

### **ACTION STEPS**

*As a Group*

- Take some time and intentionally pray for Northeast. Pray for God's guidance. Pray for our leaders.
- Pray for those in your group.

## **PRAYERS & PRAISES**

Use this page to write down the prayer requests and praises of your group over these sessions. Keep reviewing these to see how God is moving in our lives as we pray for those we care about.

## GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

	<b>Who's Hosting the Discussion?</b>	<b>Where are you Meeting?</b>	<b>Who's Bringing Snacks?</b>
<b>Session 1 Aug. 11 &amp; 12</b>			
<b>Session 2 Aug. 18 &amp; 19</b>			
<b>Session 3 Aug. 25 &amp; 26</b>			
<b>Session 4 Sept. 1 &amp; 2</b>			
<b>Session 5 Sept. 8 &amp; 9</b>			

## PERSONAL EVALUATION

### ***3 Areas of Commitment***

#### **1. Generosity**

- From 1-10, gauge your own spiritual temperature in this area: \_\_\_\_\_
- Why do I want to make a change in this area?
  
- My goal over the next 6 months is: \_\_\_\_\_ -
  - I want to start giving online
  - I want to take the 90 Day Giving Challenge

#### **2. Servanthood**

- From 1-10, gauge your own spiritual temperature in this area: \_\_\_\_\_
- Why do I want to make a change in this area?
  
- My goal over the next 6 months is: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **3. Community**

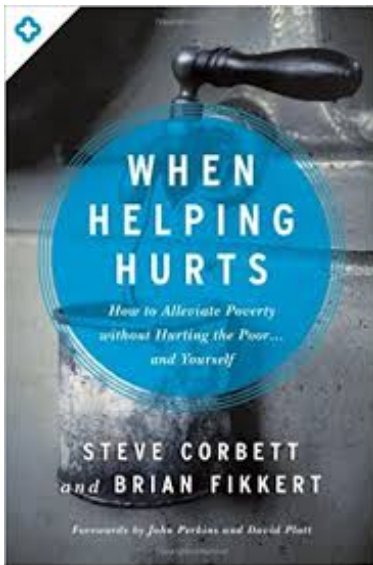
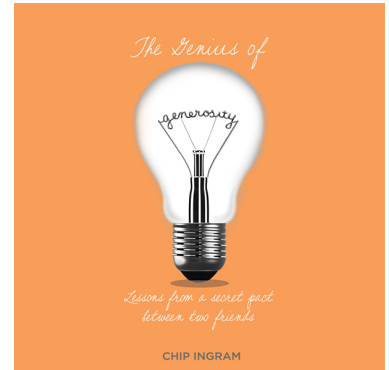
- From 1-10, gauge your own spiritual temperature in this area: \_\_\_\_\_
- Why do I want to make a change in this area?
  
- My goal over the next 6 months is: \_\_\_\_\_

## ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

Below is a list of "recommended" or "for further study" resources to coincide with the MOVE series and connected with the small group discussion guides.

### GENEROSITY

- *The Generosity Ladder: Your Next Step to Financial Peace* | Nelson Searcy
- *Genius of Generosity* | Chip Ingram
- *The Generosity Factor* | Ken Blanchard and S. Truett Cathy



### Servanthood

- *Conspiracy of Kindness* | Steve Sjogren
- *When Helping Hurts* | Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert
- *Family on Mission* | Mike and Sally Breen

### Community

- *When the Church was a Family* | Joseph Hellerman
- *The Tangible Kingdom: Creating Incarnational Community* | Hugh Halter
- *Leading Missional Communities* | Mike Breen

