

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Momentum: Outreach  
"Momentum" Series  
October 21/22, 2017

Main Idea

*The first church showed outreach and compassion as a way to help spread the Gospel.*

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## Discovery Questions

1. When did someone serve you unexpectedly, and how did you feel or receive it?

This is the final week in our "Momentum" series. In this series we've looked at the commitments the early church had that allowed them to become a force for God and for good in this world. This week we'll take a look at their commitment to *outreach*—to demonstrating acts of kindness and compassion to the people with whom they wanted to share the gospel message. To do this, we'll start with the unique founding of the church in Ephesus, as told to us in Acts 19.

2. Read Acts 19:8-20. How do we see Paul use acts of outreach and compassion in order to reach those in the city of Ephesus?

3. a. What examples have you witnessed of individual Christians and entire churches that effectively reached others for Christ through acts of service and compassion towards others? What were some of the outcomes?

b. Is there anybody you know whose whole life seems to reflect outreach and compassion to others? What makes them stand out to you? How has their example influenced you?

4. a. What acts of outreach have you done individually or in groups to serve others and bring them the message of Jesus? How were those experiences? Were you ever surprised by something unexpected?

b. What would motivate us to regularly live this "outreach" sort of lifestyle? What obstacles might we encounter?

5. Many of our Life Groups at Friends have been through Rooted together. During Rooted, most groups participated in an outreach/serve project and had a positive experience. Talk with your group about what it would look like to do another serve activity sometime in the next couple of weeks. Maybe revisit what you did during your Rooted experience, or try something new. Appoint one or two people to help plan it and report back next week with what your group decides.

**Note: Next week, we welcome New York Times Bestselling author Bob Goff to our church as our guest speaker. Be sure to attend, and invite a friend or coworker who doesn't know Jesus!**

*Leader Guide Starts on Next Page*

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

## Leader Guide

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**1. When did someone serve you unexpectedly, and how did you feel or receive it?**

*This is a “lighter” question designed to get the conversation going. Spend about 5-7 minutes on this question.*

This is the final week in our “Momentum” series. In this series we’ve looked at the commitments the early church had that allowed them to become a force for God and for good in this world. This week we’ll take a look at their commitment to *outreach*—to demonstrating acts of kindness and compassion to the people with whom they wanted to share the gospel message. To do this, we’ll start with the unique founding of the church in Ephesus, as told to us in Acts 19.

**2. Read Acts 19:8-20. How do we see Paul use acts of outreach and compassion in order to reach those in the city of Ephesus?**

*Acts 19:8-20 tells the story of the founding of the church in the first-century city of Ephesus. Though Paul began his missionary journey in Ephesus the way he usually did—by going first to the synagogue and trying to reach his fellow Jewish people for Christ—he was met with resistance, so then went to the Gentiles in the region instead. Paul did preach the Gospel to these people, but he also performed miracles—acts of kindness and compassion—by healing people. He also set people free from demons and he accompanied people in the burning of “scrolls” (19:19, likely books of magic and sorcery). Thus Paul did more than just preach the Gospel; he also served them, and that led to the spread of Jesus in the region (Acts 19:20).*

*Spend 7-10 minutes on this question.*

- 3. a. What examples have you witnessed of individual Christians and entire churches that effectively reached others for Christ through acts of service and compassion towards others? What were some of the outcomes?**
- b. Is there anybody you know whose whole life seems to reflect outreach and compassion to others? What makes them stand out to you? How has their example influenced you?**

*In this question, we want to point out that an effective way to create opportunities to share the Gospel message with others is to serve them first. Meeting practical needs and being compassionate towards others can open a door to share Jesus with them. The question that has been asked before is, “If your church closed its doors today, would anybody in your neighborhood care or even notice?” It’s when a church is committed to serving the people around them that we really make an impact in our community.*

*Spend 5-7 minutes on this question in its entirety.*

- 4. a. What acts of outreach have you done individually or in groups to serve others and bring them the message of Jesus? How were those experiences? Were you ever surprised by something unexpected?**

# DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- b. What would motivate us to regularly live this “outreach” sort of lifestyle? What obstacles might we encounter?**

*For part “a,” we want to acknowledge that not all “serve” experiences are good. Some people have had horrible experiences serving others. That’s OK... Jesus didn’t promise that serving others would be easy or always go well. Sometimes it will go badly. But that’s part of denying ourselves for His sake, and even if we consider it a bad experience, God is still pleased with it and can use it.*

*For part “b,” many of the answers your group might give can be summed up in one word: selfishness! The truth is, serving is hard some times, and it requires a degree of selflessness to take time we could otherwise spend on ourselves to serve others. Sometimes the best way to overcome it is just to do it and make it a priority in our life. The more we do it, the more natural it will become.*

*Spend about 10-12 minutes on this question in its entirety.*

- 5. Many of our Life Groups at Friends have been through Rooted together. During Rooted, most groups participated in an outreach/serve project and had a positive experience. Talk with your group about what it would look like to do another serve activity sometime in the next couple of weeks. Maybe revisit what you did during your Rooted experience, or try something new. Appoint one or two people to help plan it and report back next week with what your group decides.**