

## start small...THINK BIG | WEEK 3

*The Least of These* | 05.15.11

During May 2011 The Church at Martinsburg will embark on a teaching series entitled *start small...THINK BIG*. During this series we will examine the words James, which direct us to care for and provide resources to the least of these. You and your family will have a unique opportunity to change the world during these three weeks!

### Growth Questions for 5/15/11 – 5/22/11

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find most helpful, eye-opening, troubling?
2. What are some of the ways we show compassion to others according to Matthew 25:34-40? Can you think of any other ways?
3. What is Jesus' perspective on this kind of care for others? (See verse 40) Who is Jesus specifically talking about here? Who are his "brothers"? (Consider Matthew 12:50 and Romans 8:29) Who are "the least of these"?
4. What about "the least" in our community who are not believers? Are we excused from caring for them? Consider Proverbs 14:31 & 19:17, Hebrews 13:2 and Luke 10:25-37.
5. How does this kind of active compassion prepare a path for the gospel?

### *Living on Mission*

#### *Proclaim...Reach...Connect...Go*

1. What is your response to this statement: "Jesus takes both the compassionate care of and the persecution of believers personally"? (See Matthew 25:40 and Acts 9:1-5) How does this challenge your own attitudes in your service toward others?
2. Who are "the least" in your sphere of influence? How can you effectively care for their needs? Can you do it alone? How could other members of the body of Christ assist you?
3. Is the gospel conspicuously absent from your service to others? What do you need to do to assure the gospel isn't lost in your benevolence?

### Important Dates

- 5/22/11 FOUNDATIONS – Series in Romans Kicks Off!
- 5/22/11 Graduate Recognition ([graduates.martinsburgchurch.org](http://graduates.martinsburgchurch.org))
- 5/25/11 NEXT STEP w/ C@M
- 6/14/11 Summer Movie Express Begins – SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER TODAY!
- 7/7/11 Moldova Mission Trip
- 7/18/11 Thailand Mission Trip

### Multiple Worship Times - 9:00AM AND 10:30AM

**COMMUNITY GROUPS** – *Community Groups* are groups of people who come together on a weekly basis to promote significant Christian relationships that are centered around the study of God's Word (Hebrews 10:24-25 and Romans 8:29! Get more information at the Groups Table outside the Theater 4 today! Additional info can be found at [groups.martinsburgchurch.org](http://groups.martinsburgchurch.org).

**SUMMER TEACHING SESSION** - Each summer The Church at Martinsburg hosts a teaching session through the summer months as community groups take a break over June, July, and part of August. This summer we will be offering Financial Peace University, The Gospel Centered Life, and two other options.

The teaching session will begin the second week of June. Visit [www.martinsburgchurch.org](http://www.martinsburgchurch.org) for more information.