

Do Good

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers..." – Galatians 6:10

Doing good should be a top priority for every Christian as we are instructed to follow Christ and his earthly ministry, which was filled with acts of kindness. We must understand that we will not be saved because of our good works, but we do good works because we are saved. We know that salvation only comes by grace as Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast."

It is good that you have committed to serve our community on this short-term mission trip, and we believe it is not a coincidence that the Holy Spirit has lead you here for this time. In serving on this mission trip you will provide encouragement to some and hope to others. We ask you to keep your spiritual eyes open as you are presented with many opportunities to do good. Remember that your service will be used to provide miracles in someone's life, which can be viewed in different ways. Whether the opportunity is having a short conversation with someone or sharing the Gospel with them at the right place and time, no task is too small. This could be the very opportunity needed to provide "light" in a situation that may seem very dark.

However, "doing good" does not always seem good. Sometimes we are rejected when we reach out in love to do a good deed or offer a word of encouragement for someone whose life has been so bruised and battered. It may seem as if the deed is not recognized or acknowledged. It is in these times, when we must trust God and obey, praying that the seed planted will take root and grow.

We do good because of the love, peace and joy that it brings. These are also attributes of the fruit of the Spirit. Why do we do good? We are to be an example letting our light shine that men may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven.

Small Group Questions:

- 1. How do you currently define good?
- 2. What does "good" look like to you?
- 3. Do you believe that "doing good" can be counterfeited? Why/Why not? Name and discuss an example of when "doing good" might have been hurtful.
- 4. How can we tell if the "good" shown is sincere?