



**SOMETHING
NEEDS
TO
CHANGE**

**A Call to Make Your Life Count
in a World of Urgent Need**

DAVID PLATT

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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EDITORIAL TEAM

REID PATTON

Writer

DAVID HANEY

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PARTICIPANT GUIDE

■ HOW TO USE THIS PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Each session of *Something Needs to Change* Bible study includes a participant guide to help you follow along with the video teaching and think about the content throughout the week.

Each page is designed to be cut out and used by participants in the group. The front side is meant to be used during the group session, while the back side is meant to be used for personal study and application between group sessions.

If all participants don't have Bible-study books, copies of the participant guide are available at LifeWay.com/SomethingNeedstoChange.

■ SCRIPTURE

This section provides the Scripture passage David taught during the video session.

■ TEACHING POINTS

This section lists primary points contained in David's teaching.

■ ACTION STEPS

This study calls you to make a difference as you live your life. Each session provides several key action steps you could take to live out key teachings presented in this study.

■ QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Several questions are provided to help you think more deeply about the issues being discussed in the group sessions. The purpose of these questions is for you to evaluate your heart and allow the gospel to transform your heart, mind, and actions.

SESSION 1: REPENTANCE

Use this page to follow along with the video teaching.

■ SCRIPTURE

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, God's word came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the vicinity of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight! Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low; the crooked will become straight, the rough ways smooth, and everyone will see the salvation of God." He then said to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance. And don't start saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." "What then should we do?" the crowds were asking him. He replied to them, "The one who has two shirts must share with someone who has none, and the one who has food must do the same." Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He told them, "Don't collect any more than what you have been authorized." Some soldiers also questioned him, "What should we do?" He said to them, "Don't take money from anyone by force or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were waiting expectantly, and all of them were questioning in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I am is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing shovel is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with fire that never goes out." Then, along with many other exhortations, he proclaimed good news to the people.

LUKE 3:1-18

■ TEACHING POINTS

It is dangerously possible to have religion without repentance.

It is completely impossible to be a Christian without change.

Judgment is inevitable for every person, based upon how they respond to Jesus.

Hope is available to all people because of the good news of Jesus.



■ STEPS TO TAKE

Consider the following suggestions for becoming involved in God's work in your community and around the world.

Meet with a trusted Christian friend and identify areas of your life in which your actions don't line up with what you profess to believe.

Make a list of places you've been or experiences you've had in which you personally encountered urgent spiritual and physical needs. What lasting effect(s) did those experiences have?

Use JoshuaProject.org, OpenDoorsUSA.org, PeopleGroups.org, and other resources to learn about some of the most urgent needs among unreached people groups and in places where the church is persecuted.

■ QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Use these questions to consider and apply what you've learned in this session over the next week. We'll talk about them at our next group session.

Who's a leader or a friend at your church you could connect with to identify ways to join Christ's work through your local body of believers?

What are you learning about repentance? Why should repentance be an ongoing component of the Christian life?

Who in your life needs to hear the gospel and believe in Jesus? Spend a few minutes asking God to convict you of the need to reach a person or a people group, like those in the Himalayas, who need the gospel. Then pray that He will use you to take His hope to them.

SESSION 2: PHYSICAL NEED

Use this page to follow along with the video teaching.

■ SCRIPTURE

He came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As usual, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on him. He began by saying to them, “Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled.”

LUKE 4:16-21

While he was in one of the towns, a man was there who had leprosy all over him. He saw Jesus, fell facedown, and begged him: “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” Reaching out his hand, Jesus touched him, saying, “I am willing; be made clean,” and immediately the leprosy left him. Then he ordered him to tell no one: “But go and show yourself to the priest, and offer what Moses commanded for your cleansing as a testimony to them.” But the news about him spread even more, and large crowds would come together to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

LUKE 5:12-15

■ TEACHING POINTS

How should you and I live in a world of urgent physical need?

We don’t turn from need. We run to need.



■ ACTION STEPS

Consider the following suggestions for becoming involved in God's work in your community and around the world.

Meet with a pastor or church leader to discover information about ways your church is serving your city by meeting spiritual and physical needs.

Do you feel a particular passion for any needs, such as homelessness, orphan care, or victims of abuse? Find out where God is meeting those needs in your city.

What are some physical needs that exist around the world? Brainstorm ways to raise material resources to alleviate this suffering.

Identify at least one way you, your family, or your friends could sacrificially meet a need in your community. Make a specific plan to meet this need and set a timetable. Pray that God will use your efforts to draw attention to Himself and that your efforts will provide an opportunity to share the gospel.

■ QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Use these questions to consider and apply what you've learned in this session over the next week. We'll talk about them at our next group session.

We don't have to go to the other side of the world to meet urgent physical need. What are a few ways God can use you to meet physical need where you are?

In what ways is your local church currently running to need? How could you be involved?

Spend time asking God to help you identify areas of apathy and indifference in your life. Pray that God, through His Spirit, will create a burden in you to meet the needs around you in Jesus' name.

SESSION 3: SPIRITUAL NEED

Use this page to follow along with the video teaching.

■ SCRIPTURE

On one of those days while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea, and also from Jerusalem. And the Lord's power to heal was in him. Just then some men came, carrying on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed. They tried to bring him in and set him down before him. Since they could not find a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the roof tiles into the middle of the crowd before Jesus. Seeing their faith he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to think to themselves: "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But perceiving their thoughts, Jesus replied to them, "Why are you thinking this in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he told the paralyzed man, "I tell you: Get up, take your stretcher, and go home." Immediately he got up before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. Then everyone was astounded, and they were giving glory to God. And they were filled with awe and said, "We have seen incredible things today."

LUKE 5:17-26



■ ACTION STEPS

Consider the following suggestions for becoming involved in God's work in your community and around the world.

David stated that many Christians don't feel comfortable sharing the gospel. Compose a gospel presentation and think about a way you could communicate that message to another person. Practice sharing what you've recorded with a friend and ask for feedback.

Cultivate relationships with people who haven't yet believed in Jesus.

Identify at least one unbeliever among your family, friends, coworkers, or neighbors for whom you'll pray and with whom you'll attempt to share the gospel over the next month. Ask another church member to pray for you.

■ QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Use these questions to consider and apply what you've learned in this session over the next week. We'll talk about them at our next group session.

If we truly believe that people who die without knowing Jesus spend an eternity apart from God in hell, why do we live with so little urgency? How could you live more intentionally for the sake of those who haven't believed?

What changes do you need to make in your life in order to respond to spiritual need around you?

SESSION 4: LOVING GOD AND OTHERS

Use this page to follow along with the video teaching.

■ SCRIPTURE

An expert in the law stood up to test him, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the law?” he asked him. “How do you read it?” He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself.” “You’ve answered correctly,” he told him. “Do this and you will live.” But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus took up the question and said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead.” A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “Take care of him. When I come back I’ll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.” Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers? “The one who showed mercy to him,” he said. Then Jesus told him, “Go and do the same.”

LUKE 10:25-37



■ ACTION STEPS

Consider the following suggestions for becoming involved in God's work in your community and around the world.

Find local organizations that are committed to meet physical needs in order to meet spiritual needs. Find ways to partner with them as a way of loving God and others.

Identify a need in your church that you could address, such as sending money or a care package to a missionary, visiting a homebound member, preparing a meal for someone who's in the hospital, or offering to pray with someone who's suffering.

■ QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Use these questions to consider and apply what you've learned in this session over the next week. We'll talk about them at our next group session.

What small (even good) practices and pursuits do you or does your church focus on that keep you from concentrating on the most important priorities?

Sometime during the next week, meet with a friend from church to talk about ways you could show unselfish love to your community, to confess where you've failed, and to pray for God to use your church in your community. Record some reflections from that conversation.

SESSION 5: OPPORTUNITIES

Use this page to follow along with the video teaching.

■ SCRIPTURE

He told them a parable: “A rich man’s land was very productive. He thought to himself, ‘What should I do, since I don’t have anywhere to store my crops? I will do this,’ he said. ‘I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones and store all my grain and my goods there. Then I’ll say to myself, “You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.” ’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared—whose will they be?’ That’s how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

LUKE 12:16-21

Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Make money-bags for yourselves that won’t grow old, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

LUKE 12:32-34

The Lord said: “Who then is the faithful and sensible manager his master will put in charge of his household servants to give them their allotted food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom the master finds doing his job when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But if that servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and starts to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, that servant’s master will come on a day he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unfaithful. And that servant who knew his master’s will and didn’t prepare himself or do it will be severely beaten. But the one who did not know and did what deserved punishment will receive a light beating. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be expected.”

LUKE 12:42-48

■ TEACHING POINTS

The life that counts is rich toward God and generous toward others.

The life that counts gives generously because it rests continually in God’s love.

The life that counts turns much grace from God into much glory for God.

■ ACTION STEPS

Consider the following suggestions for becoming involved in God's work in your community and around the world.

Find other believers in your workplace or in your vocation. Think together about ways you can use your profession or skills for the kingdom of God.

Connect with a minister at your church and discover ways your gifts can be used on a short-term mission trip.

■ QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Use these questions to consider and apply what you've learned in this session over the next week. We'll talk about them at our next group session.

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be expected" (Luke 12:48). What comes to your mind when you read this verse?

What might God require from you, based on what He has given you? Spend a few moments praying about this question before recording your answer.

How could you use the unique gifts God has given you in places far away from where you live?

SESSION 6: THE COST

Use this page to follow along with the video teaching.

■ SCRIPTURE

Great crowds were traveling with him. So he turned and said to them: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn’t first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot finish it, all the onlookers will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man started to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ Or what king, going to war against another king, will not first sit down and decide if he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If not, while the other is still far off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.”

LUKE 14:25-33

■ TEACHING POINTS

Jesus requires superior love.

Jesus requires exclusive loyalty.

Jesus requires total loss.

Jesus is supremely loving.

Jesus is supremely loyal.

Jesus suffered the ultimate loss.



■ ACTION STEPS

Consider the following suggestions for becoming involved in God's work in your community and around the world.

Two billion people don't have access to the knowledge that Jesus can save them from their sins. What resources could you sacrifice to make sure the gospel reaches them?

Talk to a church leader and investigate ways you can support the persecuted church through praying, giving, and going.

■ QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Use these questions to consider and apply what you've learned in this session over the next week. We'll talk about them at our next group session.

What is it costing you to follow Jesus in your life right now? If it isn't costing you something, why isn't it?

What steps of obedience to Jesus might make following Him most costly?

Over the next several days find a time to meet with someone from this group or someone else from your church. Spend concentrated time praying and asking Jesus to help you boldly pursue Him no matter the cost. Record some reflections on this concentrated time of prayer.

SESSION 7: THE ONE

Use this page to follow along with the video teaching.

■ SCRIPTURE

All the tax collectors and sinners were approaching to listen to him. And the Pharisees and scribes were complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “What man among you, who has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it? When he has found it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders, and coming home, he calls his friends and neighbors together, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!’ I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who don’t need repentance. Or what woman who has ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, because I have found the silver coin I lost!’ I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who repents.” He also said: “A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate I have coming to me.’ So he distributed the assets to them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all he had and traveled to a distant country, where he squandered his estate in foolish living. After he had spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he had nothing. Then he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one would give him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food, and here I am dying of hunger! I’ll get up, go to my father, and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I’m no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired workers.”’ So he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I’m no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father told his servants, ‘Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then bring the fattened calf and slaughter it, and let’s celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ So they began to celebrate. Now his older son was in the field; as he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he summoned one of the servants, questioning what these things meant. ‘Your brother is here,’ he told him, ‘and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and didn’t want to go in. So his father came out and pleaded with him. But he replied to his father, ‘Look, I have been slaving many years for you, and I have never disobeyed your orders, yet you never gave me a goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ ‘Son,’ he said to him, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”

LUKE 15

■ ACTION STEPS

Consider the following suggestions for becoming involved in God's work in your community and around the world.

Identify one person you know who has yet to believe the gospel. Commit to pray for them daily and to spend time with them regularly.

Learn the names of missionaries your church supports on the field. Connect with them and discover specific needs you can meet through praying, giving, and going to serve them.

■ QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Use these questions to consider and apply what you've learned in this session over the next week. We'll talk about them at our next group session.

Who's one person you're praying for in the hope that they'll come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ?

Do you spend any time with people who haven't yet believed? If not, in what areas of your schedule can you make time to intentionally befriend and care for those in your community who don't know Jesus?

Spend time in prayer asking God to give you grace and opportunities with a lost friend. Pray that He will give you boldness and confidence as you seek to care for this person and share the gospel.

SESSION 8: SOMETHING NEEDS TO CHANGE

Use this page to follow along with the video teaching.

■ SCRIPTURE

As they were traveling on the road someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus told him, “Foxes have dens, and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” Then he said to another, “Follow me.” “Lord,” he said, “first let me go bury my father.” But he told him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and spread the news of the kingdom of God.” Another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but first let me go and say good-bye to those at my house.” But Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

LUKE 9:57-62

In the same way, when you have done all that you were commanded, you should say, “We are worthless servants; we’ve only done our duty.”

LUKE 17:10

■ TEACHING POINTS

Are you going to choose comfort, or are you going to choose the cross?

Are you going to settle for maintenance, or are you going to sacrifice for mission?

Will your life be marked by an indecisive mind or an undivided heart?

Work hard to help well amidst earthly suffering.

Work hardest to keep people from eternal suffering.

Be the church God calls us to be.

Run the race God calls you to run.

■ ACTION STEPS

Consider the following suggestions for becoming involved in God's work in your community and around the world.

Look at your budget. Consider ways you could reduce unessential expenses in order to leverage your resources for the advancement of God's kingdom.

■ QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Use these questions to consider and apply what you've learned throughout this study.

Are you going to choose comfort, or are you going to choose the cross?
What comforts is God calling you to forsake in order to embrace the cross?

Are you going to settle for maintenance, or are you going to sacrifice for mission?
What sacrifices do you need to make?

Will your life be marked by an indecisive mind or an undivided heart?
What needs to change in your life?