

Small Group Study Guide

ICE BREAK

- Share a time when your life plans were completely altered? How did you react? In what way was God involved in the process?

STUDY

Key Scripture Passages:

1. Isaiah 58: 6-12-God's call to justice
2. 1 Samuel 15.22-To Obey better than sacrifice
3. Deuteronomy 31.8 God goes before us
4. Proverbs 21. 13 Respond to the cry of the Poor

- 1. Fear Recognizing God's Call** 1. Gabe shared how she spent 5 years running from God's call on her life. Can you relate to this? What fears or excuses have you used to avoid what you sense God calling you to do? **2.** Read Isaiah 58:6-12 together. Before hearing this sermon, how familiar were you with this passage? How does it challenge or expand your understanding of what God expects from His people? **3.** Gabe mentioned she was afraid of the unknown, financial loss, and time commitment. What specific fears hold you back from deeper obedience to God?
- 2. Obedience vs Sacrifice** 1. What does the phrase "obedience is better than sacrifice" mean to you personally? How have you seen this principle play out in your own life or in others' lives? **2.** Gabe challenged the concept of "retirement from service." How does our culture's view of retirement and comfort conflict with biblical principles of lifelong service?
- 3. Influence and Action.** 1.The monthly word is INFLUENCE - "to flow into." How does answering (or ignoring) God's call influence not just you, but your family, friends, and community? **2.** Read Proverbs 21:13 together. This is a sobering warning. How does this verse challenge you to respond to the needs around you? **3.** Gabe mentioned the five pillars Metrocrest Services addresses: food security, housing, healthcare, education, and financial literacy. Which of these areas do you feel most drawn to? Why?

4. **Individual Reflection:** **1.** What is God calling me to do that I've been avoiding? **2.** What is ONE step of obedience I can take this week? **3.** What fear do I need to surrender to God?

5. **Choose ONE action step** to commit to as a group and/or individually. A. Volunteer at Metrocrest Services. B. Identify someone in need in your community and meet a specific need. C. Share skills/expertise with a local nonprofit serving the vulnerable D. Commit to financial giving to support community services.

REFLECT

- Reflect and Discuss: what you learned about God, the underserved, yourself in view of this message?

PRAY

- Pray around the circle and have each person pray for the person on their right, specifically:

- *For courage to answer God's call
- *For clarity about next steps
- *For trust in God's provision
- *For influence that flows into their community