
A Year in the Word

A Year in the Word: Part 4

Small Group Questions: The Extra Mile

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Read

Genesis 24: 10–27 and 60–67; and Matthew 5:41–42

Reflect

Abraham's servant, charged with finding a wife for Isaac, travels back to Abraham's homeland with 10 camels in tow. Reaching the town, the servant takes his camels to a well and prays that God shows him the right woman for Isaac. To make sure he recognizes her, he prays that she will not only give him water when he asks, but also offer to water the camels. Rebekah does exactly that. To water so many camels would take upwards of 1.5 hours. She definitely goes the extra mile—even when she has no idea what blessings her simple act will bring to her.

Pastor Josh Surratt describes what the extra mile really is:

1. When I do more than what is expected.
 - a. When have you found yourself doing just the minimum expected? How do you react when someone else gives only the minimum? Which is harder for you?
 - b. In what area of your life is it easier to go an extra mile? Relationships? Job? Which is the hardest? Why do you think that is?
2. When I say yes, when I normally say no.
 - a. What might keep you from saying yes to someone's request...or a need you see?
 - b. In what area might God be calling you to go an extra mile?
 - c. What have you done out of obedience that might've seemed small, yet later discovered was a big deal? What did God teach you through that obedience?
3. When I push beyond my comfort zone.
 - a. How hard is it for you to step outside your comfort zone? What is your personal comfort zone?
 - b. Do you have a word or phrase for the new year to help you overcome obstacles? (Ex. bold, courage, trust, etc.)
 - i. If so, consider explaining why you chose it.

Life in the extra mile

1. When I go the extra mile, people will notice.
 - a. What do you think Christians are known for these days by the world at large?
 - b. Discuss the difference between trying to gain notice, and trying to fulfill God's plan for you.
 - c. Give an example of someone going the extra mile. Who is the perfect example?
2. My relationships flourish in the extra mile.
 - a. What relationship could use some extra effort on your part right now?
 - b. Do you think the extra mile could also mean forgiving someone, or praying for them? Explain.
3. My destiny is often discovered in the extra mile.
 - a. When have you gone the extra mile and realized later just how significant it was to your life?
 - b. What step do you need to take next: go to an event/conference? Get involved and serve? Be baptized? What is God nudging you to do?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?