

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Isaiah 53

Our mission at The Church at Severn Run is to reach as many people as possible by creatively revealing the love of the Father through the life of the Son in the power of the Spirit. One of the ways that we can most effectively do this is by partnering with other local ministries who have the capacity to serve people in ways that we may not, like the Transformation Center. They work in five different areas of life: the spiritual condition of the soul (salvation/spiritual health), the intellectual development of the mind (education), the emotional state of the heart (emotional health), the physical needs of the body (health/hunger), and the social issues of the environment (social justice). God has a plan for all of us! But some people are separated from God's plan for them, and the Transformation Center is a vehicle to bring them back. God is at work in Baltimore!

Pray

Lord, thank you for loving us. Thank you for having a plan for each of us from long before we are born. We pray that nothing would stand between us and your plan, so that we can fulfill it. We pray that we would be able to recognize who our neighbors are and how best to love them. Finally, we pray that we would be courageous enough to share your love with our neighbors in the same way that it was shared with us.

Getting Started

- What games would you play with your neighborhood friends as a child?
- Share a story of a moment when God's plan for you was revealed. What led to this revelation?

Digging Deeper

1. Read Isaiah 58:10-12, and discuss what this would look like in Baltimore. What would it look like to "rebuild the city" or "restore homes" for Jesus?
2. Share what it felt like when there was something standing between you and God's plan for you?
3. How did you get through those times where something was separating you from what you knew God wanted for you? Were you alone?
4. Pastor Brian talked about the parable of the Good Samaritan (found in Luke 10:30-37) and how that story defines who our true neighbors are. In light of this story, who is your neighbor?
5. Why do we hesitate to reach out to our true neighbors and instead create our own small bubble, closing ourselves off from the outside world?
6. Do you think God is calling you outside of your comfort zone? How? How can you stretch yourself to move beyond your comfort zone and to follow God's call on your life.

Living Jesus

This week we discussed how we can go and share God's love with our neighbors in Baltimore through the Transformation Center. You can learn more about their great work or sign up to partner with them at severnrun.com/impact. There is no reason that the people right around us have to go a day without knowing God's love when we are basking in it. God is at work in our city and he wants to work through us! Will you allow him to use you? Take some time this week to set goals for how you will follow God's call out of comfort and into helping your neighbor.