

# PART 4 **BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING**

## THE BEST INVESTMENT OF YOUR LIFE

Stop storing up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moths and rust destroy and thieves break in and steal. Instead, store up treasures for yourselves in heaven. **Matt. 6:19-20**

### HOW TO STORE UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN

#### 1. I must care about those who suffer

Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then, at the resurrection of the godly, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you. **Luke 14:12-14 NLT**

#### GOD COMMANDS US TO CARE ABOUT...

##### •Hungry, homeless and poor

Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear. **Is. 58:7 TEV**

##### •Orphans and widows

What God considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering. **James 1:27 TEV**

##### •Prisoners

Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. **Heb. 13:3 NIV**

##### •Immigrants

You must show love to foreigners. **Deut. 10:19 NLT**

##### •Sick and afflicted

You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. **Ezek. 34:4 NIV**

**First Step: Become aware of the needs around me**

**TODAY: GIDEON SPEAKER** An offering will be collected

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**XP3 STUDENT MINISTRY @ 7-8:30pm** each Wed! (middle/high students)

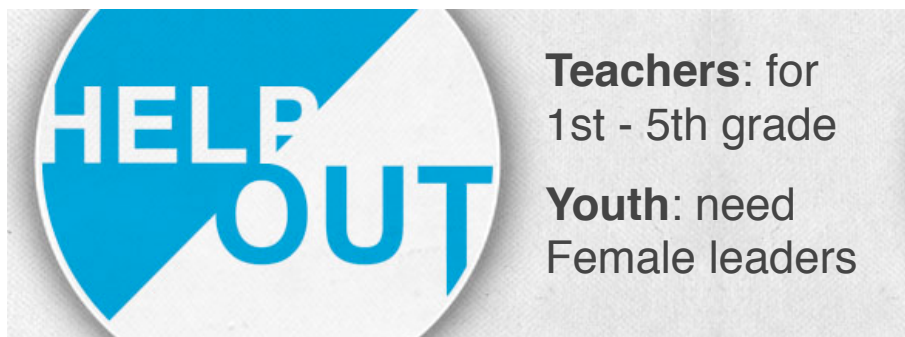
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**Next Sunday:** MMT @ 12:45 - Nursing Home Ministry @ 2:30 & 3:45

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**SAVE THE DATE: CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8!**

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## **2. I must dare to make a difference**

Our love should not just be words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action. **1 John 3:18 TEV**

Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, and you say, 'God bless you; stay warm and eat well,' - but you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

**James 2:15-16 NLT**

Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live. **Mark 8:35 LB**

If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.

**Eccl. 11:4 NLT**

**Next Step:** Get involved somewhere

## **3. I must share whatever I have**

Tell people to use their money to do good...they should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well.

**1 Tim. 6:18-19 LB**

When you give to the poor, it is like lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back. **Prov. 19:17 TEV**

When you happen on someone who's in trouble or needs help...don't look the other way pretending you don't see him. Don't keep a tight grip on your purse...give freely and spontaneously. Don't have a stingy heart. The way you handle matters like this triggers God's blessing in everything you do, all your work and ventures. **Deut. 15:7-10 MSG**

**Next Step:** Make your resources available to God