



## MESSAGE GROUPS - OVERCOMING THE EPIDEMIC OF APATHY - JULY 1

### LEADERSHIP THOUGHT:

This teaching is meant to give you a call to action and reflect on where apathy is present in your own life, and where God is calling you to focus your passions. Take some time beforehand to sit and think about what passions God has given you to help make a difference in your community – be ready to help your group take practical action by providing real life examples.

### MESSAGE OVERVIEW:

Romans 9:1-3 gives us a perfect example of what righteous discomfort looks like in the life of a believer. God wants each of us to live "blessed with a burden." It is the burdens that God gives us individually that make up the body of Christ and move the heart of God.

### ICE BREAKER

If you had unlimited time and resources - what is one need in the world you would meet?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why do you think it is human tendency to be apathetic and overlook the needs around us?

### Why don't we care like Jesus called us to care?

- *Question:* Of the 3 reasons given for why we are apathetic, which do you most relate with?
  - The amount of information we receive is overwhelming.
  - We feel helpless to actually make a difference.
  - We are blessed (and cursed) with comfort.
- *Question:* In a culture so centered on convenience, how can we protect ourselves from living only for comfort?
- *Question:* Talk about the idea of "exposing yourself to righteous discomfort"—how can intentional discomfort help us to care more like Jesus cared?

### • Read aloud Romans 9:1-3:

*I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit— 2 I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race*



Referencing Romans 9:1-3, *Question:* Have you ever felt a burden like the one that Paul is describing? If so, what burden did you feel and how can you take action on it.

### **How do we overcome apathy?**

- *Question:* Talk about an area you would like to make a difference by answering: Where can you focus on something? (think back to the icebreaker—what are you passionate about?)
- *Question:* What is a practical way you can get involved in your area of passion? (remember –you don't have to start something, you can join something!)

**Challenge each other in your group to take action this week!** Share one practical step you can take to begin making a difference and overcoming apathy.

*(This can be as simple as taking a few minutes daily to pray for an area that burdens you or as bold as signing up for a mission trip)*

### **WRAP UP / CLOSE**

In light of this teaching, spend some time reflecting and/or discussing the following: *(Leaders: You can either encourage your group to process these questions out loud or let them use these questions to guide further, private reflection.)*

We all likely struggle with feeling apathetic to the thing God calls us to care about. Where is God speaking to you and telling you to move out of your comfort zone?

- How can you see that "the more comfortable our lives become the more life becomes about us?"
- What's something that creates righteous discomfort in your life?
- Where is God speaking to you to move out of your comfort zone?