

NOTHING ORDINARY

Based on the weekend message and the devotions for the week, where is poverty exposing itself in your life today? *In what ways are you poor?* Remember, poverty is anything we lack that keeps us from living fully as an image-bearer of God. Describe what your forms of poverty feel like to you.

Do you ever struggle to empathize with people whose life experiences and forms of poverty are different from yours? As God opens our eyes beyond our own perspective, we pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide our actions and shape our hearts. Who are some people you need to seek to humbly understand so that you can have compassion for them? Who are some people to whom you can extend love and mercy? What actions can you take this week to demonstrate God's love for those in poverty?

With what we have learned as a church over the last four weeks, how is work one way in which we can help people discover that they are image-bearers of God? As you think about your own life, how do you empower people to discover that they are image-bearers of God through work? If you realize that you haven't lived this out, what steps can you take to do so?

Have you ever experienced being materially poor? What was your life like at the time? Maybe you are experiencing this in your life. What is most difficult for you right now? If you have never experienced being materially poor, and especially if you have judged or looked down upon those who are materially poor, imagine what a day in this type of poverty might be like. List some of the feelings and practical realities of life experienced by the poor in our world. Pray and ask God to stir your heart with compassion and mercy and a desire to help others discover who they are in Christ.

In thinking about your own personal forms of poverty, whether past or present, did/does your life reveal a heart of discipleship like this widow's, even in the midst of your poverty? Why or why not? Does your attitude reflect worship and trust? If not, why? What is holding you back from fully following Jesus?