

WEEK 4:

I AM MARKED... TO BUILD A BRIDGE

SET IT UP

Each of us desires to live for something greater than ourselves... We want to make a difference and to leave a mark in the world. But we get tripped up with questions like “How can *I* make a difference?” “*Where* can I leave my mark in this world?” Or, “How could I possibly do anything *truly* significant?”

Whether you believe it or not, God has chosen you, in this time in history and in this place in the world to

Make a difference for Him...

Make your mark for Him...

The only real question is: Will you give your life to be used by God to make a difference and change the world?

CONNECT

1. Continue to allow one or two other people to “have the floor” and share a little about who they are and what their spiritual journey has looked like so far... (Continuing group option: Share where God has been “growing you” lately.)
2. Tell the group about a time you felt like you were used by God to make even a small difference in someone’s life.

We’ll be celebrating communion in our group next week. Who will volunteer to bring grape juice and a loaf of French bread to use as communion elements?

GROUNDED IN THE WORD

Read the following together then watch the fourth session of the DVD.

³⁷But he (Jesus) answered, “You give them something to eat.”

Mark 6:37

“Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can’t believe that, believe what you see—these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I’m doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I’ve been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I



am doing, I'll do it. That's how the Father will be seen for who he is in the Son. I mean it. Whatever you request in this way, I'll do.

John 14:11-14 MSG

VIDEO NOTES

You have _____ yourself.

Jesus is speaking right now and He's saying _____.

In this time, God has _____ you!

TALK IT OVER

3. There are certain times in life that we sit back and take stock... Maybe you do "a year in review" each Dec 31st, or a milestone birthday caused you to evaluate your life. Tell about the last time you reflected on your life. What did it bring to your attention? Were you inspired to change anything?

4. In our DVD teaching we talked about how Jesus' disciples missed an opportunity to be part of feeding a crowd of people (found in Matthew Chapter 6). Have you ever felt like you missed out on a special opportunity God was offering you? If so, share the situation and how that affected you.

5. Nike had a famous ad campaign a few years back... Just DO it. What might Jesus be saying "Just DO it" to you about?

TAKE IT DEEPER

Throughout time God has called on regular, everyday people to do some (seemingly) minor tasks and some really big world-changing, history-making assignments. The projects they were assigned definitely varied... but consistently God used people who were all pretty normal, regular people. He called on shepherds, fishermen, housewives, tax collectors... People who kind of resemble US!

Often when God asks us to do something, our response leaves a little to be desired. Check out these Biblical accounts to see what we mean:

¹⁻²Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law...

The angel of God appeared to him in flames of fire blazing out of the middle of a bush. ...³Moses said, "What's going on here? I can't believe this! Amazing! Why doesn't the bush burn up?"

⁴God saw that he had stopped to look. God called to him from out

of the bush, “Moses! Moses!” He said, “Yes? I’m right here!” ⁵God said, “Don’t come any closer. Remove your sandals from your feet. You’re standing on holy ground.” ⁶Then he said, “I am the God of your father: The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob.” Moses hid his face, afraid to look at God.

⁷⁻⁸God said, “I’ve taken a good, long look at the affliction of my people in Egypt. I’ve heard their cries for deliverance from their slave masters; I know all about their pain. And now I have come down to help them . . . ¹⁰I’m sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt.”

¹¹Moses answered God, “But why me? What makes you think that I could ever go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹²“I’ll be with you,” God said. “And this will be the proof that I am the one who sent you: When you have brought my people out of Egypt, you will worship God right here at this very mountain.”

¹Moses objected, “They won’t trust me. They won’t listen to a word I say. They’re going to say, ‘God? Appear to him? Hardly!’”

¹⁰Moses raised another objection to God: “Master, please, I don’t talk well. I’ve never been good with words, neither before nor after you spoke to me. I stutter and stammer.”

¹¹⁻¹²God said, “And who do you think made the human mouth? And who makes some mute, some deaf, some sighted, some blind? Isn’t it I, God? So, get going. I’ll be right there with you—with your mouth! I’ll be right there to teach you what to say.”

¹³He said, “Oh, Master, please! Send somebody else!”

Exodus 3:1-12; Exodus 4:1, 10-13 MSG

6. What were Moses’ responses to God’s call?

Ch 3 v. 6 _____

v. 11 _____

Ch 4 v. 1 _____

v. 10 _____

v. 13 _____



7. Put a check by any excuse you've ever used with God when He's extended an opportunity to you.
8. What was God's answer to Moses' objections in Ex. 3:12 and Ex 4:11-12?
9. How do God's responses to Moses help you as you consider serving Him?

ACTION ITEM

10. Each day this week do one thing that you would NOT normally do to serve someone else. Don't limit yourself! Ideas might include:

- Spend time with someone who's lonely
- Let another person go first in the grocery line
- Pick up the mess someone else left behind
- Write a note to a friend letting them know what you admire or appreciate about them

MAKE A DIFFERENCE CHALLENGE

Are there any details or updates for your project?

PRAY

TAKE IT HOME

Read Mark 10:45 and Galatians 6:3-5

⁴⁵For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45 NIV

⁴⁻⁵Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life.

Galatians 6:4-5 MSG

God is always concerned with our heart and our motives when it comes to serving Him. And Jesus is our ultimate example. What changes do you need to make to develop a servant's heart? Spend time asking God to do a little heart surgery on you... and give you a servant's heart.