

Good Works, Inc.

A COMMUNITY OF HOPE

“Good Works exists to connect people from all walks of life with people who struggle with poverty so that the kingdom of God can be experienced” – Good Works Mission

The Five Fours +

Good Works is the ministry God has trusted *us* with. Good Works is primarily about mission and discipleship. Our mission is to create and sustain “contexts” which care for people in poverty, specifically the widow, the fatherless and the stranger. Our vision for discipleship is lived out in the “*how*” (or *culture*) of what we do. Discipleship in our context is both horizontal and hierarchical. The term horizontal discipleship captures what we hope the community will experience as we share our lives together in mission; and how our love, hope and faith grow together in community over time. Hierarchical discipleship has more to do with the role (and responsibility) of leaders in our lives, how we respond to leadership, and how we receive and submit to leaders who watch over and care for us (Hebrews 13:17). Both are necessary for us to be fruitful and for our community life to flourish.

Below are the four *fives*, principles that are practiced in the community of Good Works:

(1) *The Four Elements of a Context (from Luke 4:14-21)*

1. Our ministry is primarily about relationships, not programs.
2. In our relationships, we seek to build higher and higher levels of trust.
3. Each context intentionally seeks to meet a particular need (housing, food, companionship, the need to be needed and others)
4. The person receiving assistance is invited to move from recipient to participant.

(2) *The Four Principles for witness (Acts 1:8)*

1. We start with respect. When people feel respected, they feel safe and are receptive.
2. We seek to *earn the right* to speak by building trust, paying attention to our words.
3. Ask permission. We intentionally ask something like “can I share my story with you?”
4. We recognize that God is already working in that person’s life before we met them.

(3) *The Four Practices of Community:*

1. Hospitality
2. Gratitude
3. Promise-keeping
4. Truth-telling

(4) The Four Questions:

1. Are the people in this community the kind of people that I can learn from?
2. Do I believe that the staff and volunteers of Good Works can learn something from me?
3. Is this community as concerned about **my** growth and development as it is about the growth and development of the people it reaches out to serve?
4. Can I experience healing while in this community?

(5) The Four focuses of our mission:

1. To BE Worshippers (John 4:23-24)
2. To/With widows, strangers and at-risk children (James 1:27)
3. Discipleship. Learning how to follow Jesus *together* (Matthew 16:24)
4. Community and Neighborhood. Living out Acts 1:8 as witnesses.

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We learn in several passages from scripture that we must be saved. Once we learn about how we must be born again. Forty times Jesus says, “Follow me”. The various initiatives of Good Works (or contexts), create the setting in which discipleship – learning to follow Jesus *together* - takes place. What we do is important. *How* we do what we do is equally important. In the culture of Good Works, we seek to balance our intimate personal relationship with Jesus with a more corporate experience of mission and service in the body of Christ.

Good Works Foundation passages from Scripture:

- Luke 4:14-30 – This anointing is from the Holy Spirit to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel which is the person and work of Jesus!
- Exodus 33:1-34 – Desperate for God’s presence to go with us
- John 17:1-26 - BEING the answer to the prayer of God
- Ephesians 4:1-16 – Unity is a gift. It is our job to preserve or maintain it.
- Job 29:1-17 – The Widow, The Fatherless and The Stranger
- Psalm 127:1-2 – This is God’s work. We have been invited into it.
- John 4:4-26 – BEING Worshippers through song, service, sacrifice and suffering.

We also find strength for our mission in (1) Isaiah 58 (2) Genesis 18 (3) Matthew 5:21-26 & 18:15-20 (4) Micah 6:6-8 (5) II Timothy 6:17-19 (6) Matthew 25:31-46 (7) Luke 10:25-37 (8) Romans 12:1-2

Partnerships are based on three essential ingredients to flourish:

1. Trust between leaders.
2. Integrity of those who established the partnership.
3. Good Communication by phone, email, eye contact, texting using proper protocols.

Notes: