

The Five Fours

“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

[Good Works](#) is a ministry God has trusted us with. Good Works is primary about mission and discipleship. Our mission is to create and sustain “[contexts](#)” which care for the poor, 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 (Colossians 3:12-17) 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. Hierarchical discipleship has more to do with the role (and responsibility) of leaders in our lives and how we learn to respond, receive and submit to others 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 a few principles that are practiced in the community of Good Works:

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

1. Our ministry is primary 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 felt need.
4. The person receiving assistance is invited to move from recipient to participant.

The Four Principles for witness

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

The Four [Practices](#) of Community

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

The Four Questions:

1. Are the people in this community the kind of people that I can learn from?
2. Do I believe that these people are the kind of people who 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?

The Four focuses of our mission:

1. To **BE** Worshippers (John 4:23-24) Song, Service, Sacrifice, Suffering, Sincerity
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.

We learn in several passages from scripture that we must be saved. One-time 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 ([Vision of HOPE](#)) what we do is more important. In the culture of Good Works, we seek to balance our intimate personal relationship with Jesus with a more corporate experience of the body of Christ.

Good Works Foundation passages from Scripture:

- John 4:4-26
- Exodus 33:1-34
- John 17:1-26
- Ephesians 4:1-16
- Job 29:1-17
- Psalm 127:1-2
- Luke 4:14-30

Our community also spends time each year 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 25:31-45 (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 property protocols.

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Mailing address: PO Box 4, Athens, OH 45701

www.good-works.net

www.goodworksdavinthelife.net

Good Works Luhrig Road Property: Administrative Offices 740-594-3339 • The Hannah House 740-594-3336

Good Works Timothy House 740-594-3333