

Small Groups Guide

Luke 6:27-36

Sunday June 18, 2023

1. Short opening prayer (one person or popcorn style prayer)
2. Group sharing time (time for everyone to talk about what is going on and how they are)
3. Go over sermon.
 - a. See if anyone can remember it off the top of their head and how they'd summarize it.
 - b. Summary from PM: There will always be people in our life who are difficult to get along with. So the question is, "What is the Christian thing to do about people we don't like?" Jesus had a lot to say about that in today's scripture. Without a doubt, he said that we are to love our enemies. We need to talk about what makes someone an enemy. We also need to talk about what it actually looks like to love those people. That is what we will be doing for the next two or three weeks.
 - c. Read Luke 6:27-42
 - i. Jesus says some things that are very hard to hear. He says to love enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. He also says that if someone slaps you to turn the other cheek to them as well, if someone takes your coat then to give them your shirt too, give to everyone who asks, and if someone steals from you don't demand your things back. Furthermore, he says love your enemies AGAIN, do good to enemies, be merciful, and lend to enemies without expecting anything back.
 - ii. At the end of the scripture, why did Jesus say that we are expected to do these things?
 - iii. What did Jesus say the reward would be if you did these things?
 - See v. 35b
 - d. One of the main struggles with this scripture is interpreting it. What did Jesus actually mean? Did he literally mean all those things or was he exaggerating to make a point?
 - e. If Jesus was being literal, imagine how that would change your life and your interactions with people. Discuss how this would change it for a minute?
 - f. Many have argued over whether Jesus was being literal here or just exaggerative. Divide evenly into two groups. One group will be supporting the view that Jesus was being literal and that we are actually expected to live just like this. The other group will be arguing that he was exaggerating to make a point that we shouldn't always try to get back at our enemies or avoid the people we don't like. You may use your Bible, phone, anything you can find to make your case.
 - g. Come back and each side gets 5 minutes or so to make their point.
 - h. Now, which argument do you actually think is more compelling and right?
 - i. Close by talking about who in your life is an enemy and difficult to get along with. How do you think that Jesus wants you to treat them and think about them?
4. Closing prayer

Youth Group Guide

Luke 6:27-36

Sunday June 18, 2023

1. Short opening prayer (one person or popcorn style prayer)
2. Group sharing time (time for everyone to talk about what is going on and how they are)
3. Go over sermon.
 - a. Who do you not like or you would say is an enemy?
 - b. We all have people we don't get along with.
 - c. How do you usually deal with these people?
 - i. Avoid
 - ii. Passive aggressive
 - iii. Be polite
 - iv. Ignore
 - v. Try to win them over or change them
 - vi. Talk about them to other people
 - vii. Get angry
 - viii. What else??
 - d. Sermon summary: There will always be people in our life who are difficult to get along with. So the question is, "What is the Christian thing to do about people we don't like?" Jesus had a lot to say about that in today's scripture. Without a doubt, he said that we are to love our enemies. We need to talk about what makes someone an enemy. We also need to talk about what it actually looks like to love those people. That is what we will be doing for the next two or three weeks.
 - e. Read Luke 6:27-42
 - i. Jesus says some things that are very hard to hear. He says to love enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. He also says that if someone slaps you to turn the other cheek to them as well, if someone takes your coat then to give them your shirt too, give to everyone who asks, and if someone steals from you don't demand your things back. Furthermore, he says love your enemies AGAIN, do good to enemies, be merciful, and lend to enemies without expecting anything back.
 - f. Do you think you could do what Jesus is asking of you? If no, why not?
 - g. If you did do what Jesus said (to love enemies), how do you think this would change your life and/or the world?
 - i. Ex: You'd be less angry and bitter, other people might change when they see your example, you might get treated even worse if you do these things, you could be abused by a boyfriend or someone else, etc.
 - h. Name one person that you don't really like whom you are going to try to love more this week. This doesn't mean you'll do things with them, talk to them, etc. It might just mean that you change your attitude toward them and how you think about them.
4. Prayer