

## Small Groups Guide

Matthew 25:31-40  
Sunday July 2, 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 the sermon off the top of their head and how they'd summarize it.
  - b. Summary from PM: Sometimes to love people as Christ called us to do, we have to get out of our comfort zone.
  - c. Watch Bob Goff study video #4 for Everybody Always
    - i. Points he made:
      - "Whatever you fill your bucket with, you'll become."
        - a. We fill our buckets with the things we do, say, and think.
        - b. What have you been filling your bucket with?
      - He talks about having a life of engagement with God and others. He tells a story about getting his song engaged during his senior year by taking pilot lessons and another story about flying at a lake in Canada.
        - a. Talk about a time when you loved other people by getting engaged with people and situations around you.
        - b. Matthew 25:31-40

The Message

The Sheep and the Goats

31-33 "When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.

34-36 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why:

I was hungry and you fed me,  
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,  
I was homeless and you gave me a room,  
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,  
I was sick and you stopped to visit,  
I was in prison and you came to me.'

37-40 "Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you

did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’

- c. These are the ways that Jesus suggested that we get engaged: feed the hungry, clothe the cold, give the thirsty a drink, provide a room for the homeless, visit the sick, and see those in prison. In what ways have you done any of those or something else that got you engaged? If nothing, what prevents you? Talk about story Bob told about handing out In and Out burgers to strangers.
- d. Bob said, “Don’t just agree with Jesus, do what he said!” I like that!
- e. In the video Bob says he gave out his phone number in a book and doesn’t send anyone to voicemail. I’ve called him 15 times and got voicemail every time lol. He talks about making himself available to people and that allows him to show love to people.
  - i. He said, “If you want a good deal go to a garage sale. If you want Jesus go find some people who creep you out.” What did he mean by this?
  - ii. I think a lot of us don’t always do a great job of making ourselves available for loving others, especially when we are younger. At that point in our lives we are so busy with our own families, jobs, and interests that we might not even notice the people around us who need love. However, as we get older sometimes we lose touch with younger people and we can’t identify with them which makes it difficult to be available to them.
  - iii. How “available” are you for loving others? Discuss that as a group and what you could maybe do to improve being available to others.
- f. If I were to summarize the video today, Bob says that to love people we must be filled with love to start out with and then we must make ourselves available before we can even hand that love out. He especially encourages us to be available for loving the people we find difficult, creepy, or unlikable.
- g. In his message, Brett gave us a long list of ways that our church is living out Matthew 25. Are you involved in any of those things? If you can’t be physically involved due to health or another reason, how else could you get involved?
- h. I also really appreciated Brett talking about how we sometimes have to go out of our comfort zone in order to be available and show love to others. He gave the example of Brent going out on a limb and inviting him to play with the band. Discuss the last time you got out of your comfort zone to show love to someone else. For example, I went on many mission trips to Mexico. On one of them, we spent the night in Tijuana where I was meeting with another pastor. I was told, “Whatever you do, don’t go out alone at night.” That evening I wanted to go visit and check on people who were homeless, but no one would go out with me. So, I went alone. Was it foolish? Probably. However, by going out of my comfort zone I was

able to share love with those people. You don't have to go to such extremes to get out of your comfort zone.

- d. For me, just about every sermon and study should result in action. I've heard them called "Actionable steps." So, I want you to come up with your actionable step for this message. You have two jobs:
- i. Decide what you are going to "fill your bucket with" for this week. Decide what you can do, say, or think that will better prepare you to love others.
  - ii. Decide what you are going to do that will take you a little out of your comfort zone to show love to another person or group.
  - iii. Fill your answers in this web page ... <https://stcharleschristianchurch.org/everybody-always-form/>. At the next group meeting, we talk about how it went.

#### 4. Closing prayer