

Matthew 9:10-17  
Sunday July 16, 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. Follow-up on from last week on things people were going to fill their bucket up with and how they were going to make themselves more available to others to show love.
4. Watch session #5 of Everybody Always by Bob Goff
  - a. Bob said, "I've spent my whole life avoiding the people Jesus spent his time engaging." Discuss.
    - i. Who did Jesus engage that others avoided?
      - Matthew 9:10-17  
New International Version  
10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"  
  
12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' [a] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
      - Luke 7:36-38  
36-38 One of the Pharisees asked him over for a meal. He went to the Pharisee's house and sat down at the dinner table. Just then a woman of the village, the town harlot, having learned that Jesus was a guest in the home of the Pharisee, came with a bottle of very expensive perfume and stood at his feet, weeping, raining tears on his feet. Letting down her hair, she dried his feet, kissed them, and anointed them with the perfume.
    - ii. Who have you avoided?
  - b. The time we've spent talking about loving everybody always, what has/is it going to change about you?
  - c. To love people, think about what you are good at? Where are you? So what are you good at? What situations do you find yourself in? Discuss.
  - d. What do you think of Bob loving Charlie in action, but then also loving Kabi? Could you go see Kabi considering what he had done to Charlie?
  - e. What is the power of loving people like this? What can it do for us and for others?
    - i. The power of loving your enemy is displayed in Bob's story of visiting with Kabi and getting him to start witnessing to his faith to the prison of 3,000 inmates who had never heard the gospel. You can have the same kind of impact by loving your enemy.
  - f. Listen to this true story:

In his book *How Small a Whisper*, Roger Carswell relates an amazing story of a Christian family's response to tragedy:

In May 1987, 39 American seamen were killed in the Persian Gulf when an Iraqi pilot hit their ship, the USS Stark, with a missile. Newspapers carried a picture of the son of one of these

seamen, a shy five-year-old boy, John Kiser. He was standing with his hand on his heart as his father's coffin was loaded onto a plane to take him back to the U.S.A.

His mother said, "I don't have to mourn or wear black, because I know my husband is in heaven. I am happy, because I know he is better off." Later on, she and young John sent a letter and an Arabic New Testament to the pilot of the Iraqi plane, addressed to: "The man who attacked the Stark, Dad's ship, in the hope that it will show that even the son and the wife do not hold any grudge and are at the same time praying for the one who took the life of our father."

Source: Roger Carswell, *How Small a Whisper* (Kregel, 2000), p. 67

- g. How are we able to love our enemies like that family loved the pilot who killed their family member? What steps do we have to take? Ex: Forgive, let some time pass, process how we are feeling, etc.
  - h. Now that we have finished *Everybody Always*, what final thoughts or questions do you have?
  - i. How has this sermon series, book, and study changed your faith and life?
  - j. Things to do as you move forward to love everybody always, even your enemies:
    - i. Show genuine respect for others
    - ii. Find common ground
    - iii. Put yourself in their shoes
    - iv. Remember that you don't know where they've been or why they are the way they are
    - v. Forgive them even if just in your own mind
    - vi. Be the first to reach out
    - vii. Pray for them
  - k. Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5x1RyJOwP8>
5. Closing prayer