

FOLLOW ME

IN STEP WITH JESUS - THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Love Your Enemies | Luke 6:27-38

November 11, 2007

1. What did you walk away with from Sunday's message? What were your impressions? What came to mind? How did God speak into your life?

2. What are some examples of how Jesus' teaching is a "turn your world upside down" kind of teaching?

Leader Hints:

Luke 9:48: "He who is least among you all—he is the greatest"; Luke 12:22: "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear"; Luke 13:22ff: Story of the narrow door; Matthew 5-7: Sermon on the Mount.

3. Can you think of someone who has hurt or mistreated you in the past? Why is it so difficult to love this person?

Leader Hints:

This is a question that could provoke great emotion. You need to do your best to decipher whether your group members are ready to open up about this. Encourage them to not use names but to speak more to why it is hard for them to extend love to this person.

4. Jesus says that love means showing mercy toward those who have hurt us. What do you think that this means?

Leader Hints:

What it does not mean—Jesus is not saying that we have to be "doormats," taking whatever is given to us. Remember that he is speaking in hyperbole (overstatement for effect).

What it does mean—not being retaliatory; not being vengeful; being generous; forgiving; willing to lay aside our own rights; treating others as we would want to be treated (6:31).

5. Reflect on and share the many ways that God has extended mercy toward you. What is your response to this?

6. When others look at your life, do they see mercy—the character of God? How can you gain more of God's character of mercy in your life?

7. In what ways are you impacted by the truth that God will reward/judge based on the measure of mercy that you use?

PRAYER TIME SUGGESTION: Separate according to gender, and ask how the group can encourage each member to grow in this area of life. What specific relationship do we need to pray about so that you can show greater love, mercy, and forgiveness?