



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 October 13, 2024
"Finding Common Ground"



OPENING PRAYER

Lord, give us comfort as we navigate a world filled with hatred and division. Show us how we might grow in kindness and love; and give us bravery to share it with our neighbors. Thank you for the blessings you have given to us and make us be a blessing to the world around us. It is in the name of your Son, who showed us true love, that we ask this. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 5:3-9 (NIV)

- ³ *"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- ⁴ *Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*
- ⁵ *Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*
- ⁶ *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they will be filled.*
- ⁷ *Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*
- ⁸ *Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*
- ⁹ *Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God."*

Matthew 5:22 (NIV)

"But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire."

Matthew 5:44 (NIV)

"But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Matthew 7:3 (NIV)

"Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye?"

Matthew 7:12 (NIV)

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you."

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INTRODUCTION

Asbury’s “Do Unto Others” campaign aims to build bridges, encourage kindness and draw us to live Jesus’ “Golden Rule.” When it comes to our politics, many - including Christians - seem to ignore the Golden Rule. Our faith can either divide us and instill greater fear (and even hate), it can be part of the problem, or it can be the antidote to hate, heal divisions, and bring us together.

Republicans, Democrats, and Independents are better together; and Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount might just help us find a better way forward in a broken political system. Jesus calls us to be humble, meek, to hunger after righteousness, to be full of mercy, pure in heart, and peacemakers. He calls us to be salt and light, to love our enemies, and to not judge. This is what it looks like to “Do Unto Others” in our lives and politics.

QUESTIONS

1. Did you do any “Acts of Kindness” this past week? Share with the group.
2. Only 10% of Americans say they are often or always hopeful when they think of politics. Are you hopeful when it comes to politics? Why or why not? Explain.
3. When you consider the bitterness so prevalent in our society, what role do you think fear plays in how people talk and act?
4. What might the Church miss out on if congregations are made of people who all think the same?
5. Read the scripture passages from the Sermon on the Mount (on p. 1). What stands out to you? In the sermon, Pastor Eric said “Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount might just help us find a better way forward in a broken political system.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?

FINAL APPLICATION

Continue to do acts of kindness this week. Need some ideas? Visit asburylv.org/30ActsofKindness to find a some!