



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 October 20, 2024

“Malice Toward None, Charity for All”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we gather today, rid us of all malice and hatred and let love and charity abound. For, Merciful Lord, you have forgiven us of all our sins and lead us into new life. You have commanded us to do unto others and today we more closely examine our walk. Embolden us to be not just hearers but doers of your Word. May the Holy Spirit guide our thoughts and actions, this day and always. All this we pray in Jesus’ precious name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Matthew 23:3-4 (NIV)

³ So you must be careful to do everything [the teachers of the law and the Pharisees] tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. ⁴ They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

Matthew 18:23-27 (NIV)

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

Matthew 25:37-40 (NIV)

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

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INTRODUCTION

In this “Do Unto Others” series we have been seeking to lower the polarization in our community and increasing love and kindness, especially amid the upcoming national elections. We have examined the power of kindness and the need for common ground. Now we move to a closer look at how and why we “do” this work. The Bible calls us to not simply be “hearers but doers” of the Gospel (James 1:22-25). With deliberate intention, let us be kind to our neighbors and those that think differently from us. Let us pray for them and provide for their needs as we live out Jesus’ commandment to “do unto others.” Amen.

QUESTIONS

1. Can you recall a time someone received forgiveness but then did not offer the same to someone who wronged them? How do you understand that?
2. Jesus challenged Peter’s understanding of forgiveness in the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (see Matthew 18:21-35). What points from this teaching most stand out to you and why?
3. Jesus’ expectation for us to forgive can be hard at times. What do you do when you struggle with forgiving others or receiving forgiveness for yourself?
4. In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46), both groups were surprised by the verdict. What do you believe the pivotal difference was?
5. This week, what is one thing you will commit to doing as you cultivate kindness and live out the command to “do unto others?”

FINAL APPLICATION

Jesus provided us a glimpse into the Kingdom of God. God is shown to be willing to forgive the debt of our sin if only we ask for it. Let us both seek to be forgiven and offer forgiveness to those that have sinned against us. Take a moment to imagine that kind of world. What would it feel like for you, your family, kids/grandkids/nieces/nephews? Can you and I not bring that world just a bit closer today by how we “do unto others?”