



For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Introduction

The good person is the one who consistently spreads love. They do what is best for others. This is how Jesus moved throughout the world, and he calls his disciples to do the same. The tension we face is that our natural bend is to act selfishly. C.S. Lewis said, "No one knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good." Today, we'll discuss what we must do to become the loving disciples Christ calls us to be.

Discussion Questions

1. Love is doing what is best for others. Why is this such a struggle? Share some recent examples of ways you may have mistreated others by not putting them first.

2. This past weekend, grace was described as "God working in your life to do what you cannot do by yourself." Grace is strength for life. Share an example of how God's grace has helped you do something you could not have done in your own strength?

Where do you need that kind of strength to follow through on what you know God wants you to do?

3. Christ-followers have access to God's strength but rarely tap into the grace of God. Why do you think that is?

Read Matthew 9:27-30. Grace is accessible by believing God's will for your life is possible and better. Is there something you have a hard time believing God can do? Why?

What do you have a hard time believing could ever be better? Why?

4. Read Luke 6:40. If we want to be like Jesus, our training program must disrupt the automatic responses that are embedded in our bodies. What kind of automatic responses are deeply ingrained in your body that do not exemplify the love of Jesus?

Silence, solitude, meditation, prayer, and fasting are spiritual disciplines Jesus used to model spiritual training. Discuss how each of these spiritual disciplines disrupt our body's automatic responses and paves the way for renewed thinking.

Small Group Questions Continued

Which of these disciplines will you commit to practicing over the next week and what is your plan to do so?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

OUR CHURCH

Help with childcare during Moms Time Out. Please contact Jody Peak at jodypeak13@gmail.com.

OUR COMMUNITY

Habitat for Humanity is doing a Bargersville build and we need volunteers for 10/13 and 10/15. Contact Kerry Jones at kjones@eclife.org.

OUR WORLD

We have partners in Haiti, Nicaragua and Colombia. Check out the dates for the upcoming trips and as a small group pray for the teams that are going, sponsor a member by helping financially, and/or write letters of encouragement for the members going. The next team is traveling to Nicaragua in October.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY Phil. 3:3b-4:1	MONDAY Phil. 4:2-23	TUESDAY Colossians 1:1-18
this week	october 2	october 3	october 4
WEDNESDAY Colossians 1:19-2:7	THURSDAY Colossians 2:8-23	FRIDAY Colossians 3:1-17	SATURDAY Colossians 3:18-4:18
october 5	october 6	october 7	october 8
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE Matthew 12:33			

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

_____.

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are

_____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for: