

Wednesday

Read: Luke 6:35-36 *Follow God's example of compassion.*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Is this commandment unrealistic? Foolish?*
2. *What might God's mercy look like in today's world?*

Prayer Focus:

Reflect on all the ways God has been kind to you. Ask to be a child of the Most High, the one who is compassionate whether we deserve it or not. Give thanks.

Thursday

Read: Luke 6:37 *Don't judge, but forgive.*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What can happen when we judge others?*
2. *Read the quote from Brene Brown at the top of page three. How could you "move up" and see others "close in?"*

Prayer Focus:

Jesus, you have challenged me to give up my need to pass judgement on others. If I don't, how can I expect anyone to treat me any better? Forgive me and give me the kind of eyes that really see people up close.

Friday

Read: Luke 6:38 *Give and more will be given to you.*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Can you recall an experience when you gave with no hope of return and been given more as a result?*
2. *What could the world look like if we fully embraced this commandment?*

Prayer Focus:

Gracious God, you say that if I give away my life, I'll find that life is given back to me. If I give, if I love, if I am kind to others, it is only because you showed me how. I'm willing to try this in my life. Be with me in my efforts to live in generous love.

Compassion for Difficult Others

Luke 6: 27-38

"People are hard to hate close in. Move up." Brene Brown

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What is your definition of an enemy?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

- Have someone read: **Luke 6:27-38**
- Discuss observations about the text.
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)



July 28, 2019
Compassion

Monday

Read: Luke 6:27-31 *Dealing with adversaries.*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *This can be a tough passage to accept. Does Jesus want us to be doormats, just accepting injuries? Why?*
2. *Verse 31 is called the Golden Rule. What does it mean in your life today?*

Prayer Focus:

Loving Jesus, this is such a tough commandment for us. Yet when we think of times when we've been forgiven, your way of love and forgiveness makes perfect sense.

Tuesday

Read: Luke 6:32-34 *It's easy to give to those we love.*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Who do you consider to be lovable?*
2. *How does it feel when you give to someone and you know you will get something just as valuable in return?*

Prayer Focus:

Beloved One, when I think of those who have hurt me or hurt those I love, it is so hard to be forgiving, let alone loving. But offering mercy to others, no matter what, is what you ask. If it was easy, there would be no need for you to ask.