



Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: SERMON ON THE MOUNT 4.22.2018

Recap:

- Jesus came to teach us how to love.
- Anger is an enemy of love and is incongruous with the call to live as followers of Jesus. You cannot both love God and hate your neighbor.
- Anger can take hold of you and define your life and can hinder God's purpose for your life; therefore, we should stop our anger before it takes hold of us.
- Sin and death are not defeated with more sin and death. The antidote to sin and death is love.
- To love, one must reconcile, forgive, and make peace.

Discuss:

1. Read Matthew 5:21-26.
2. Why do you think Jesus speaks so harshly against those who call another a "fool"?
3. Why does Jesus want you to reconcile before offering a gift at the altar? Why is reconciliation more important than another offering to God?
4. Read Ephesians 4:22-32.
5. In this passage, Paul speaks about speaking falsely, being angry, and stealing. Do you think there is any connection between these acts?
6. How does anger take hold of people? How is it sinful? If you are comfortable, share any examples from your life in which anger has hindered your purpose as a follower of Jesus.
7. How is reconciliation, forgiveness, and making peace a vital part of being a Christian? If you are comfortable, share any examples from your life of people that you feel called to reconcile, forgive, or make peace with?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

Read at Home: Additional Readings about Reconciliation

Genesis 32-33: Jacob reconciles with his brother Esau.

Psalms 133: The psalmist calls us to live in unity with one another.

1 Corinthians 12:14-21: Paul compares the body of Christ to a physical body with every part having a purpose.