



**Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide:
Epiphany: January 17, 2020**

Recap:

- Our lives are gifts, meant to be filled with joy, peace, and purpose. How we view the world matters and reveals who we are serving in our lives. The question is whether we are living with fear or with hope.
- In his “I Have A Dream” speech, Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of the hope of watching black and white children holding hands as sisters and brothers, in stark contrast to the fear of the other common for the day. He quoted a scripture full of hope of justice, unity, and love. He spoke of the hope in the Kingdom of God not as some fanciful idea or place you go when you die, but as the very real reality of the people of God choosing to give their lives over to God’s desire for their lives and this world today.
- If we want our lives to look different, if we want our world to be different, if we want to not rush back to the broken normal of the past, we have to seek his kingdom and his righteousness today. That kingdom and that righteousness is built on four words: Love God, love others.
- The way of Jesus, loving God and loving others, teaches us selflessness, compassion, and the embrace of the beauty of all humanity as we walk with hope into a better world.

Discuss:

1. Read Matthew 6:28-34
2. What does it say about God’s nature that he will take care of everything from humans (even unbelievers) to things like grass?
3. Have you seen God taking care of someone/something without their knowing it? Are you a person who sees God’s work easily or is it hard to see God at work sometimes?
4. How do you think God has shown his loving care for you?
5. How do you think the world’s view of worry differs from how Jesus calls his disciples to view worry?
6. What do you think is the difference between planning and worrying? What are some things that you can do to turn your worrying into planning?
7. What do you make of the verse that “each day has enough trouble of its own”? What does that imply?
8. What do you think it means to “run after” something? What are some things that you “run after”?
9. What help do you need to focus on seeking first God’s kingdom?

Read at Home: Verses about Worry

- Matthew 10:26-31
- Isaiah 41:8-10
- Philippians 4:6-7