



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

You have
heard...

Go the extra
mile

The plank
in your eye

MIDWEEK GUIDE

2017

July

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Session 1: You have heard...

1. What do the words “kingdom conduct” mean to you and how do they affect your actions?

2. How does Jesus’ teaching about the commandments change your perspective on them?

3. Why do you think Jesus took the original commandments and, in a sense, made them harder to obey?

4. Why do you think the Sermon on the Mount was shocking to the first people who heard it? How should Jesus’ teachings in the Sermon on the Mount affect **your** behavior?

5. Why is our attitude towards those around us so important? Reference Matthew 25:31-40 and Galatians 5:14.

6. How is unexpressed and unreconciled anger towards our neighbor evidence of a broken relationship? Is anger ever an appropriate response in a situation?

7. Consider this quote: *There is therefore only one way of following Jesus and of worshipping God, and that is to be reconciled with our brethren.* How is reconciliation with our neighbor an act of worship?

8. PERSONAL TAKE-HOME: Commit to reading the entire Sermon on the Mount (Matthew: chapters 5, 6, and 7) over the course of this month. Decide on a reading plan with your group.

References

Matthew 5:17, 21-26
Matthew 5:9

1 John 3:15
1 John 4:20

CNAC 3.4.8.7
CNAC 5.3.6.2

Session 2: Go the extra mile

1. Have you ever used the law of retaliation as your guide in dealing with others? If so, what effect did that approach have on your relationships?

2. How do you respond when you are treated unfairly? Is it really possible to respond with compassion and love? How can you make that your first response in all situations?

3. Jesus has given us all so much by sacrificing His life on the cross. How does His act of love drive you to go beyond what is expected of you?

4. How can you have a generous and compassionate attitude but still stand up for your rights and for justice?

5. How do our responses of kindness and compassion in situations show Jesus to the world?

6. What did the phrase, “go the extra mile” mean to you before today? Do you have a different understanding of it now?

Bible References

Matthew 5:38-42

Leviticus 24:20

Exodus 21:24

Deuteronomy 19:21

Session 3: The plank in your eye

1. Why is it easier for us to see the faults in others instead of in ourselves?

2. How do self-reflection, reading the Bible, and absorbing the Word and grace in the divine services work together to help us grow to be more like Jesus?

3. How can you speak the truth in love? Give some examples.

4. Why is it important to take time to reflect on your own faults?

5. How often do you contemplate your sins and faults? How do you confess them to God?

6. Why is the sin referred to as a plank in your eye, but as a speck in your neighbor's eye? In other words, your own sin should look like a big deal to you, and another's sin should seem small in comparison. Discuss this different perspective.

7. When Jesus says, "remove the plank from your own eye," is He saying we must be faultless in order to help our neighbor? Is this even possible?

8. Why would it be easier to help someone overcome a sin that you are working on overcoming yourself? How could you reach out to someone in this situation?

9. Are people more judgmental towards others who have the same faults as them, or those who have different faults?

Bible References

Matthew 7:1-5

Ephesians 4:15