

Week Five

God's Family:
Forget What We've Heard; Follow Jesus

Participants Guide



CIRCLE UP **Introductions**

[Leader gets some volunteers to answer the following question. Likely not everybody will volunteer. Probably only a few.]

How might this Group change how you follow Jesus? Tell about it.

Pray Together

Interactions

Sunday's message was about living in God's Family, as a result of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon On The Mount. If we hope to be salt and light to the world around us, we need to start applying Jesus' kingdom principles with each other, in the family of God. Otherwise, we will reflect more of the Scribe and Pharisee hypocrisy than Jesus' counter-culture kingdom reality.

1. What was your takeaway from Sunday's message?

DISCOVER Kingdom Principles

In Matthew 5:3-11, we saw that Beatitudes 1-4 deal with our relationship to God. Beatitudes 4-8 deal with our relationships with other people. As Jesus brings His Sermon On The Mount to a close, in Matthew 7, He returns to those two relationships.

Jesus' rule shapes how we relate in two spheres:

- Read Matthew 7:1-5 together
2. Which primary relationship does this address?

- Read Matthew 7:7-12 together
3. Which primary relationship does this address?

DISCUSS Kingdom Priorities

4. According to Matthew 7:1-5 what is the problem with how we often "see" each other?

Some psychologists tell us that every person we see, becomes a mirror, of sorts. What we see in them tells us a good deal about ourselves. So, everything that irritates us about ourselves, we are quick to see in others. What bugs us most about others is seeing our failures and weaknesses in them.

5. To what extent might Jesus be hinting at that condition or tendency?

6. In Matthew 7:-11, how is our view of God being challenged?

7. How does an accurate view of God improve our participation in Jesus' kingdom?

- Read Matthew 7:12, aloud, together.

Notice how this verse relates to Jesus' earlier words in Matthew 5:17.

8. In what ways is verse 12 a good summary statement about Kingdom participation?

DO Kingdom Practices

9. As a group, come up with 2-3 "Rules of Life" that might come from Matthew 7:1-12.

CHALLENGE

- Watch for New Groups coming in November.
- 5 Weeks, following Sunday morning messages.
- Sign-up ASAP, when Groups are announced.
- Consider Leading and/or Hosting a Group. (Contact Pastor Jeff)