



Grow Group Leader Notes

Week 6 | October 5-8

Greater Righteousness, Part 2
Matthew 5:31-48

THE BIG IDEA

Obedying God's commands about keeping our word and loving our enemies is a blessing, not a burden.

MEMORY VERSE

But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matthew 5:44

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Invite your Grow Groups to bless the families we are serving through the Christmas Store by purchasing gifts for the 400 parents and caregivers who will attend. You can visit our Amazon wish list by scanning the QR code on the Christmas Store handout in your Grow Group room or by scanning the QR code at right.
- Remind your Grow Group it is not too late to join the Women's Bible Study (Mondays at 7pm) or Men's Bible Study (Wednesdays at 6pm)



DISCUSS

 **Read Matthew 5:31-48**

Listening to Jesus

As you reflect on our worship gathering this week, what is the primary message of truth you sensed God speaking to you?

Burden vs Blessing

In this week's sermon, Pastor John said obeying God's commands is a blessing, not a burden. How have you experienced this to be true in your own life?

Love in Action

In this passage, Jesus calls us to deeper love for our spouses, our neighbors, and our enemies.

- In these three categories, who can you go out of your way to love this week?
- What specific actions might that require of you?

Evidence of Christ's Life in Us (scripture references at right in green)

Read 1 John 3:14, James 1:25, and Matthew 5:46 together.

- How would you answer Jesus' question in Matthew 5:46?
- Based on what we've learned in the Sermon on the Mount so far, what reward will we get if we love those who **do not** love us?

- *We know that we have passed from death to life **because we love each other**. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 1 John 3:14*
- *But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it – **they will be blessed in what they do**. James 1:25*
- *"If you love those who love you, **what reward will you get?**" Matthew 5:46*

Following Jesus' Example *(scripture references at right in blue)*

Read Romans 5:8-11.

- How did Jesus fulfill this high standard of love for us?
- As a follow-up to our Grow Group discussion and prayer time last week, how has embracing your God-given message **and** ministry of reconciliation been going for you this week?

Shining Jesus' Light

The life Jesus calls us to in this passage – being true to our word and loving our enemies – not only blesses us and blesses others, but it also shows the world God's character. Our faithfulness to these verses helps those who do not yet know Jesus get a glimpse of what Jesus is like.

- Who is someone who has shown you God's character through the way they live?
- When was a time a not-yet believer recognized the character of Christ in you (but they did not yet know it was Christ in you) and you had the joy of making Christ known to them?

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! **For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!** Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Romans 5:8-11*

PRAY

Break into smaller groups of 3-4 people (preferably of the same gender) to discuss the questions below and take turns praying for one another.

Of the 3 questions John invited us to write down in our Listen Journals and reflect on in prayer, which question did you choose?

- 1) How seriously am I taking my marriage vows?
- 2) How seriously am I taking my word?
- 3) What is my attitude toward those who mistreat me?

In light of these questions and our Grow Group discussion today, how can we pray for you?

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