

Dig Deeper @Home – “The Way of the Kingdom”

Complement to lesson on 9/15/24 – “Moving Beyond the Surface”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. “A wise man once said...” Do you have any famous quotes memorized?
2. What in life stirs up the most anger in you, and what might that reveal about yourself?

MEMORIZE – Matthew 6:9-10

“This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

READ –Matthew 5:21-32

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What in these verses is interesting? What is confusing?
 - d. What are the verses revealing about God? What are the verses saying about people?
 - e. In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. Earlier in the Sermon on the Mount we read that Jesus did not “come to abolish the Law or the Prophets,” but to “fulfill them.” (5:17) Fitting then, that several times in these verses He references things the people have “heard” in Scripture. How many times did He do this in these verses? Where?
3. Check out the Old Testament verses He is referencing: Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 24:1-4
 - a. Is it helpful to know the context?
 - b. In what ways did Jesus “fulfill” these?
 - c. What is He calling us to?
4. Jesus is raising the moral and ethical bar here in several spheres of life. Why are these teachings grouped together? Is it just random? What do they have in common?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Be Reconciled to Your Brother

This week's activity is less a group experience and more a literal call to put the week's Scripture into practice. Matthew 5:23-24 says that, "if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." Most of us bring offering to church on Sunday, and ALL of us are called to daily offer our bodies as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1)... so let's not bring those gifts while not living at peace with our brothers and sisters!

This week, think long and hard about anyone you may be living in conflict with, and then take steps towards reconciliation. "...as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." (Romans 12:18) What might this look like in your relationships? Go, empowered by the Spirit, to do what is laid on your heart and mind.

SING

Create In Me a Clean Heart -> <https://youtu.be/6MIAuyyhKcQ?si=mp96qW2BnvrWq5Z5>

Open the Eyes of My Heart -> <https://youtu.be/aNcHXkLlfK0?si=b-OWVTolwNUqvtU7>

Listen: Lifeway Kids- Beyond the Surface -> <https://youtu.be/UweuTkrJBwk?si=SsWmeK4w0TBmolfd>

Listen: Red- Shadows -> <https://youtu.be/VSovNZi4a7Y?si=SzftZ09VPgutR8NI>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us. In the Spirit of Matthew 6:10, pray also that God's "kingdom come, (His) will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Sending prayer based on the message:

Heavenly Father, help us to get "beyond the surface," surrendering to You our hearts and lives, living as your Kingdom ambassadors to those around us.