



Living BRILLIANT

Do Unto Others

Week of October 18, 2015

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 7:9-12

What would you do if your best friend told you they hadn't eaten in days because they had no food? You'd provide them with your best feast, wouldn't you? But what about your enemy?

God asks us to look past the things that matter little so that we can see what matters most. He asks us to love ALL people, no matter who they are or where they come from. He wants us to love just as Christ himself loved us. God calls us to love well, and not just those who we call friends, but to love ALL God's children. None of us should look at one another and see anything but a brother or sister in Christ. If our love is real, then it has to apply to all people. If we pick and choose, then we are convincing ourselves of a false love that holds little value and will never truly mean anything. We must seek to put other's needs first, and let God handle our own. He will take care of us more than we need, and he calls us to do the same for each other. He calls us not into a passive love, but a love that pushes us further than we ever thought possible.

Pray

Lord, lead us in your footsteps. Help us love as you love...unconditionally. Let the things that don't matter fade away and fill us with the love of the Holy Spirit so others might see the love you have for them. Use us as a channel for your love so that the world may know you. Help us guide as many people as we can into a love like they've never known before.

#LivingBrilliantatSR

Getting Started

- What's one thing in your life that, if all you had to do was ask for it, you would ask right now? It can be anything.
- What are some common ways today that people in general misjudge, or prejudge, each other?

Listening Deeply

1. If God gave you something that you've been asking for, would you be willing to give it up to someone who needed it more?
2. You just noted something that you WANT to ask for. Now, share something that you know you NEED to ask for. What would Jesus want you to ask for?
3. Do you feel that you treat everyone you meet the same? Why, or why not?
4. When you think about your daily life, what are some real ways that you know you could "pay it forward" better?
5. Read Matthew 7:11. What are you living from? If it's not from God's love, then how can you make purposeful steps to move in the right direction?
6. How authentic is your faith? What does your faith translate into? List the things that don't stem from a plant that is growing from the fruitfulness of God's love.
7. Is God laying someone on your heart to whom you need to extend unconditional love? Share this with your group and then spend some time in prayer over the situation.

Living Wide in Jesus

Jesus has shown us the way, and if we are ever in doubt there's a whole book called the Bible devoted to the conveying the love of the Father. All we have to do is walk in his footsteps and follow his example. If we can live, even in the smallest way, in the wake of God's love, then our lives will have meaning and purpose, and we will touch the lives of those around us in profound ways. Love well. Live Jesus. Believe big!

- Make a list of ways that you, personally, and the group as a whole, can take steps to remove the barriers that we put up against those who are different than us.
- Make a list of people that you know you've treated differently and then make a deliberate effort to treat them as you would want to be treated.
- Come up with ways that the group could help break down social barriers in such a way as to bring people together that would probably never have done so on their own.