

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (WEEK 16)

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS – MAY 16, 2010
PASTOR JEFF – THE GOLDEN RULE (MT. 7:7-12)

connect

1. What's your name? What was the best gift you ever received from your parents? Did you ask for this gift or was it simply their idea?

study

1. If the life God has for us is more about our relationships than rule-keeping—which do you find more challenging these days--relating to God or relating to people? Explain.
2. Read Matthew 7:7-11. In what ways has this verse been misunderstood? Give some examples of how this verse has been abused or taken out of context. How do you reconcile what Jesus says with experiences of not having what you've asked for? What factors might influence God's responsiveness to our prayers?
3. Why do you think Jesus says, "Ask, seek & knock" here, right after teaching on worry (Matt 6:25-34) & judging others (Matt 7:1-5)? Do you think once a person believes they are "poor in spirit" or "spiritually bankrupt" (Matt 5:3) they're more or less inclined to ask, seek & knock?
4. Jeff raised 4 "what do you really believe?" questions that can help us live out the Golden Rule. What were the 4 questions? Which one resonated with you the most? Why?
5. As a group, read aloud the following words from Matthew 7:12: "*So in everything, do to others what you would have them to do you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*" What phrase in this verse is famously known as the Golden Rule? Can you repeat it without looking?
6. Throughout history, others besides Jesus have taught something like the Golden Rule—but always in its negative form (ex. "Don't do to others what you don't want them to do to you.") Why is Jesus' positive command ("Do to others what you would have them do to you") so revolutionary and much bigger-hearted?

7. Jeff also offered 4 practical steps to live the Golden Rule. Review them together. Which step do you find most challenging? Is there one of these you've found helpful in living the Golden Rule?
8. You and I can't give what we don't have--yet as we experience our heavenly Father's generosity, He enables us to pass it on to others. Jeff mentioned some specific ways we can "go & do likewise" and be generous to others. Remember any? Can you add some you've discovered?
9. What is the main thing God revealed to you? What's the one thing you know you need to do as a result of this message?

pray

1. Pray that we will be men and women who ask, seek & knock and live out Jesus' Golden Rule.
2. Prayer requests – how can you specifically pray for each other this week?