



“Kindness in a Time of Bitterness”

September 19, 2021
CG Discussion Guide

CATCHING UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As A church family, we care about each other’s lives: what we’re celebrating, what we’re mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Suggested time: 10 minutes

- What can you thank God for this week?
- When were you most aware of Jesus’ presence this week?
- When were you least aware of Jesus’ presence this week?

REVIEW THE MISSION

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go because Jesus changes everything. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20) · *Suggested time: 10-15 minutes*

- People:
 - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
 - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, Serve CLT partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Charlotte)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?
- Plan:
 - Are there any hangouts already planned, or an extra hangout we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?
- Pray:
 - Prayer is the fuel of God’s mission. Let’s pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON DISCUSSION

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Community Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25) · *Suggested Time: 30-40 minutes*

Read Galatians 5:16-25 and Luke 6:27-36 and recap the sermon.

1. What stood out to you from the Scriptures or the sermon? What comforted you? What convicted you?
2. In response to hurt we often grow bitter. Where have you experienced relational bitterness in your life? Where have you been tempted towards the wrong response of niceness?
3. Kindness is the counter-conditional love of God displayed in our thoughts, words and actions. How is this different from how you have thought of kindness?
4. We show kindness to those who mistreat us by: 1) Blessing them, 2) Turning the other cheek and 3) Showing mercy. Who do you need to show kindness to in your life? What would that look like this week?
5. In the sermon we said that our kindness towards others comes from God's kindness towards us. That He always acts towards His people with steadfast loving-kindness. How do you need to remember God's love for you in Jesus this week? How does that move you towards kindness towards others?
6. Take a second to look at the practice guide together. What is your plan to practice these two things - Lectio Divina and Prayer for our Enemies - this week?

ENGAGE THE HEART

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)
Suggested Time: 30-45 minutes