

## Small Group Meeting on 'Jesus the Teacher'

### Review (20 mins)

Reflect together on your experiences over the last week. What has God been teaching you? Where have you been growing in your walk with Him? Had you set yourself a challenge in your discipleship? How is that going? Share those experiences with your small group.

### Read (10 mins)

Recap on the sermon from last Sunday. Try to give a summary to those who were not able to be present.

### **Luke 6:27-36 (see 6:20-49 for context)**

Read the Bible passage for this week, slowly and prayerfully. It might help to use your imagination to picture the scene. Below, you will find helpful background information in our 'Setting the Scene' section.

As you read, look out for *shockers* and *blockers*.

*Shockers* – a phrase, word, image or something from the text that resonates, stands out or connects with you.

*Blockers* – something from the text that raises questions for you.

### **Setting the scene:**

- As we saw last week Jesus has been building a team of disciples around him (5:11, 27; 6:17, 18) and now (6:20) he begins to teach them.
- Note that, like the Nazareth sermon (4:16ff), 6:20-26 are to be taken at both a spiritual and physical level.

## Reflect (20 mins)

After you have all had time to read the text, pause and be still to listen to God through the Scriptures.

Begin your reflection time by each naming your *shockers* and *blockers*. Listen carefully to each other, share your thoughts and reflect on this passage together.

You might also like to explore these questions:

Q1. When did you last ‘turn the other cheek’? How practical or impractical do you think Jesus’ teaching is in these verses and why do you think that?

(As part of the discussion you may want to consider the thoughts of two commentators – see the additional comment section)

Q2. ‘Even sinners do that.’ Jesus’ call to radical discipleship means we will often act out of kilter with our culture. As Jesus’ disciples we are called to live in an ‘upside-down’ kingdom. Share together places where you are conscious of doing this, and places where you know you should but don’t.

Q3. Note the way that Jesus teaches here – short sentences and lots of easily remembered parallels. When you teach others about Jesus how simple or complicated is the language you use?

## Respond (20 mins)

As you draw near to the end of your session, consider how you might respond to your reading and reflection by “walking the talk”. What are you going to be doing this week that will help you live out Jesus teaching here? It may be continuing a challenge or activity that have been engaged in over many weeks. If so, be prepared to share how you are growing in that.

## **Some new challenge ideas**

### **1 Turning the other cheek**

Take note over the coming week of how you react and respond to someone who has crossed you – a car driver, an e-mail or tweet you received, a throw-away comment by a member of the family or a work colleague. Seek to transform your reaction to the openhanded generosity towards them that Jesus calls for here.

### **2 ‘Even sinners do that’**

What attitudes do you hold which are framed by our culture rather than by Jesus’ call here? Commit them to God in confession and repentance. Ask for the Spirit’s strength to live aright.

### **3 Understanding the generosity of God**

In 6:35, 36 Jesus says: ‘God is kind to the ungrateful and wicked ... your Father is merciful’. The old song has ‘Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done’.

Spend time reflecting on what God has done for you, in you and through you. Respond in words or songs of praise.

## **Group Prayer**

As a group, pray for one another this week as you explore ways of living out radical discipleship. Pray that your attempt to walk in the light of God’s ways, and in God’s strength, will increase and become more habitual throughout each day.

## Additional Comment

'Jesus' point was not to provide his followers with a new rule-book, a list of dos and don'ts that you could tick off one by one and sit back satisfied at the end of a successful moral day. The point was to inculcate, and illustrate, an attitude of heart, a lightness of spirit in the face of all the world can throw at you ... you are to be like this because this is what God is like ... a generous God ... an openhanded God ... a profligate God.' (Tom Wright *Luke for Everyone* pp73, 74)

“Blessing” and “praying for” are not to be viewed as formal acts but as deeply personal expressions of the orientation of the inner person’ (John Nolland *Luke 1-9:20* p302)