

Water of Life Community Church
HEART SICK
EMOTIONS THAT CAN WRECK YOUR JOURNEY

WEEK 5
MATTHEW 18:1-35

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

This week we are talking about how emotions affect how we love, and how we care. Caring is addressing what needs to be fixed, not making others stumble in their Christian walk, loving enough to chase down the lost and, when necessary, confronting wrong when needed. *Indifference is not love. Love is an action; indifference is a feeling that leads to inaction.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. READ MATTHEW 18:1-14.

- a. What strikes you as the key point that Jesus is making here?
- b. Why do you think that the particular point that came to mind resonated with you?
- c. How might you apply that understanding in your life this coming week?

2. READ MATTHEW 18:15-20.

- a. Jesus taught these verses because he loves people and love is not indifference, which could also be tolerating sin. Love is an action, while indifference is a feeling that leads to inaction. Do you know someone; maybe a family member, friend, or co-worker who is “lost”? You don’t need to share the name, but if comfortable, please share about the person or situation. Have you shown your active love by taking the risk to “win” them? (Matthew 18:15)
- b. Have you ever had an accountability partner, someone where both of you agree that you have the freedom to confront each other when you might be “stumbling”?
- c. Consider and pray about those you know and love whom you might need to forgive, or ask forgiveness for failing to love them enough to take the risk.

3. READ MATTHEW 18:21-35

a. Have you let your emotions such as pride, envy, fear, or anger keep you from pursuing lost loved ones?

b. Do you harbor even a trace of unforgiveness with those loved ones you should pursue? Ask God to search your heart and show you if that is the case. Then forgive. Will they do something to hurt you again? Quite possibly they will, but do as Peter was instructed by Jesus to forgive “seventy times seven” times. Can you do that? Explain why or why not.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Why do you think it is so hard to show true love that holds others accountable? What worldly values work against showing that kind of love?
 - What do you think about the idea that true love is more concerned about the eternal destination of our loved one than about their feeling good today?
 - Have you been or known anyone who “stuffs” their emotions? How does it affect them?
 - What do you think about the idea that *“if you don’t deal with your demons they go down to the cellar of your soul and lift weights”*?
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GOING DEEPER/WEEKLY CHALLENGE

REFLECT

- What challenges you to love someone you didn’t want to love?

RESPOND

- Choose someone this week to reach out to...to love them. Do it!

Also ... Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting “edevotional” to 67076; or go to wolgroups.com and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies relating to this week’s theme.

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 19:10 (NLT)

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

NOTES