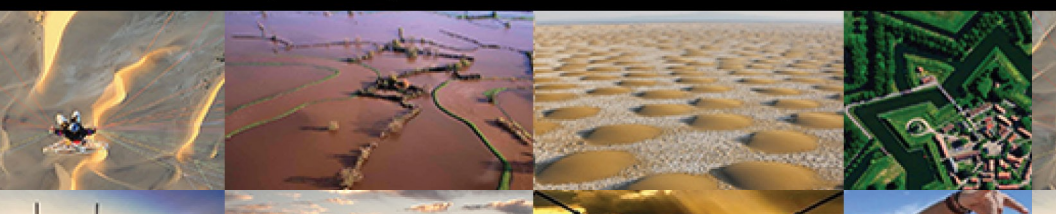




Perspectives



Small Group Discussion Guide



...on money

*Please note Small Group material can be accessed through the **FAC Experience App** under the **Resources** tab at any time.*

To Begin

If you were given a million dollars with no strings attached, how would you spend it?

Digging Deeper

- **What stood out to you the most from this past weekend?**

Together, read Luke 6:17-26 and then watch video Session 1.

The gospel of Jesus truly brings wholeness and healing. His sermon on the plain, found in Luke 6, served the same purpose as his Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5-7. The teaching in Luke 6 calls us to apply the gospel to our lives by choosing by faith to find joy in the midst of trials. When we endure life's difficulties, we can be reminded that we are on the path of God and that in the coming kingdom will we be rewarded with riches, satisfaction, joy, and God's affirmation of us despite our present circumstances.

Read Luke 6:20-23 stopping after each word or phrase. Try reading it from different versions as well.

- **What words or phrases stood out to you? Why?**
- **Which blessing appeals to you the most and why?**
- **Does Jesus really expect us to try to be poor, hungry, mournful, and rejected? Why or why not?**

Read Luke 6:24-26 stopping after each word or phrase. Try reading it from different versions as well.

- Which “woe” do you find the most challenging or troubling?
Why?
- How do the values Jesus talks about here compare with the values of our culture? If you could add another “blessed” and another “woe” to counteract modern values, what would you want to add?
- What is most challenging about living these values out in our modern society?
- What would we do in this life if we REALLY believed that money had no lasting value and that serving God with all our heart increases spiritual riches?
- What truths from Scripture will you apply to your life this week?

Praise & Prayer Points

Pray for each other’s prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.

...on relationships

To Begin

Who is one person that you are grateful for because of their impact on your spiritual journey?

Digging Deeper

- **What stood out to you the most from this past weekend?**

Together, read Luke 6:27-36 and then watch video Session 2.

In Luke 6:27-36, Jesus challenges the way in which we interact with the people around us. One of the most difficult things in life is learning to love our enemies. In this section of Scripture, Jesus gives us deep and practical examples of what this looks like. By loving our enemies, we are modeling God's own character that was fully manifested in Jesus.

Read Luke 6:27-36 stopping after each word or phrase. Don't rush and let the Scripture soak in your hearts.

- **What words or phrases stood out to you? Why?**
- **How does this description of love challenge you?**
- **How can this be a model for relating to someone you find difficult?**

Remember that at one time we were God's enemies, and His love has brought us back into relationship with Himself. God loved us first, so we ought to love on another.

- **Have you ever shown love to an enemy? How? What did that look like?**

1 John 4:11 NIV reads "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

Read the verse several times over stopping after each word or phrase. Try reading it from different versions as well.

- **What word or phrases stand out to you? Why?**

God's people should not blend into a crowd. We should be different – in a positive way.

- **If Christians only act to get a positive reaction, how are they different from the world? In other words, would we be recognized as Christians because of our acts alone? What sets us a part as followers of Jesus?**

It is difficult to do good to our enemies and not to retaliate. Jesus calls us to break the cycle by taking a road that does not seek revenge. Someone has to take the first step and it must be us!

- **We need to be merciful, just as our heavenly Father is merciful. How can we learn to be merciful as followers of Jesus?**
- **What truths from Scripture will you apply to your life this week?**

Praise & Prayer Points

Pray for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.

...on being human

To Begin

If you could build your “dream house” anywhere, where would it be? Why?

Digging Deeper

- **What stood out to you the most from this past weekend?**

Together, read Luke 6:37-47 and then watch video Session 3.

This past weekend we finished our series *Perspectives* and looked at what it means to be human. A part of being human means we are going to get hurt and we are going to hurt others. Which leads to the question, how are we going to deal with this dilemma? We always have options when someone hurts us, we can hold onto the hurt and anger or we can forgive.

- **What activities does Jesus condemn and commend? (vv.37-38) What does the promise mean in this context?**
- **What do you find challenging about verse 37?**
- **What person or group of persons are you most apt to stand in judgment over? Why? What does God want you to do about this?**

Read Ephesians 4:32, *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

Read the verse several times over stopping after each word or phrase. Try reading it from different versions as well.

- **What word or phrases stand out to you? Why?**
- **How has Christ forgiven you?**
- **Why is forgiveness vital if we desire to follow Jesus?**



First Alliance

a christian & missionary alliance church