



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 6:16–18” on June 21<sup>st</sup>

### CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed from Matthew 6:5-15 affect your week?

### DISCOVER - MATTHEW 6:16-18

What did the passage say or did you take away from the sermon this week?

How does this passage/did this sermon point us to Jesus or teach us about Jesus?

God wants ALL His children to know WHO HE IS – the Father of all! He wants us to choose to live lives that show our brothers and sisters how God loves them as His children by the way we love them. Love God, Love People! In this passage Jesus addresses fasting.

FASTING: WHEN we fast, we take something OUT of our world in order to spend time with God, to show Him we love Him and to help us understand the heart of God. Jesus warns us about the hypocrisy of fasting to be noticed by others and fasting for selfish gain.

- When you fast, what is your desired outcome? Is it to discern God’s will for your situation? Is it to be able to tell others you are fasting? Is it for your own self-interest?
- How would you evaluate your fasting experiences?
- How would you describe your ability and willingness to listen well to His leading and bring about repentance/change in your life, especially if God reveals to you something that keeps others from seeing the light of God’s love in your life?
- How has this message on fasting affected your perception of the value of fasting?
- If you have never fasted, how would this message encourage you to consider fasting as spiritual obedience?

LIVING IT OUT: What’s inside your heart is who you are.

- How passionate are you about being intentional about seeking the will of God and then LIVING according to WHO He is? What things hold you back?
- What type of person does God want you to be right now in the midst of this pandemic, unrest, and racial tension?
- What will you ask God to develop in you to represent Him well?
- What would you be willing to sacrifice to promote racial reconciliation, knowing that leading others to find Jesus is your ultimate goal for all people?

### RESPOND

How can you demonstrate God’s love for people as His children?

Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you as you watch CU Church online next week?

### PRAY

Praying for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.

### KEEP READING

Isaiah 58 where the prophet Isaiah talks some on fasting and seeking God. Matthew 4:1-11 where Jesus spends 40 days fasting before he begins his ministry.