



COMMUNITY WEEK 2

Matthew 5:38-42

SECTION 1: COMMUNITY REVEALS GOD

Community is _____ idea.

Walking together reflects _____.

The way we treat each other shows we belong to _____.

SECTION 2: GRACE RECEIVED → GRACE GIVEN

When you get grace, you _____.

When you give grace, we _____.

The Law of Talion limited _____.

The heart of the law was about giving _____ not getting even.

SECTION 3: BREAK EVIL CYCLES

Going the first mile is _____.

Going the extra mile makes you _____.

SECTION 4: GIVE WITHOUT CONDITIONS

A blessing in our hands _____ but will flourish when we _____ it.

Givers need _____ because takers have no _____.

The Dead Sea is dead because what flows in never _____.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q1: Why do you think Jesus' first priority after starting His ministry was teaching His disciples how to deal with each other rather than focusing solely on their relationship with God?

Q2: Read the statement: "The biggest difficulty you will have to face is not walking in relationship with HIM, it's walking in relationship with THEM." Do you agree or disagree? Share examples from your own experience.

Q4: Before this lesson, how did you understand "an eye for an eye"? How does learning about the Law of Talion (a law of limited grace, not unlimited revenge) change your perspective?

Q4: Part of walking in a God-ordained community means extending the grace you got. Why is it easier to receive grace than to give it? What makes us "stingy" with grace toward others?

Q5: Discuss this statement: "Just because you can do it, doesn't mean I have to stand there and take it." How do we balance turning the other cheek with healthy boundaries?

Q6: Jesus calls us to go "above and beyond" - give the cloak when only the coat is required, go two miles when only one is demanded. Why does going beyond what's required break evil cycles?

Q8: Jesus commands us to "give" without conditions - undeserving, unqualified, unvetted, unapologetic. What makes this so difficult? What fears come up when we think about giving this way?

FINAL THOUGHT

God is revealed when we stay _____. We thrive in community by resisting _____, giving the _____ we've been given, going _____ and beyond, and giving so what we have doesn't _____ in our hands.