Group Questions – Week 3: Unlearning Religion

11/8/26 – Pastor Kirby

Getting to Know Me Questions:

- What's your favorite candy?
- If you have kids, what's it like going out to eat with them now vs without? If you do not have kids, what is it like eating out with kids in the restaurant?

Into the Bible Questions:

- What's something from this week's teaching that you learned, stood out, was interesting?
- This series has focused on the section of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:1-12. This week we focused on vs 6-12
- **Read:** Matthew 7:7-12
- Jesus tells us that we should ask God for what we need, because God gives us good gifts. He loves us like no one else God's love is extravagant.
- Have you felt loved extravagantly? When we are loved so extravagantly, how do you respond? If you cannot think of a time, how has that affected your relationship with others and your relationship with God?
- **Read:** Luke 15:11-32
- The younger son left not realizing how much his father loved him. When he returned home, the father (God) did not judge, but showed extravagant love.
- What obstacles keep you from feeling and experiencing God's extravagant love?
- What keeps you from sharing God's extravagant love to others?
- Jesus said God knows how to give good gifts. He doesn't hold back. He gives us the best of what he has to offer. Like the father of the prodigal son, He welcomes us when we come to Him. God wants us to have the same extravagant love for others.
- We talked the law of love over the law of selfishness.
    - The law of love – Give more than you take
    - The law of selfishness – Take more than you give
- What are some practical areas where you can give more than you take?
- As the father said to the prodigal son's jealous, judging older brother, he was to celebrate and be glad, because the younger brother was "dead" to the family but is alive again; he was lost and is found. His Father reminded him that when someone finds the truth, we don't judge, we celebrate!
- The church can often be the judgmental older brother.
- Have you ever had this experience? Before you were a Christian, early in your faith or even recently? Talk about it.
- Do you ever feel yourself judging others, holding them to a higher standard than they understand?
- **READ:** John 14:6
- The 'bar is set by Jesus, because He didn't just tell the truth, He is the truth. When we become followers of Christ, we adjust our lives to Jesus' teaching and life We make Him

the new standard in our life. And we adjust our lives to love like He loves, giving more than we take.

- **READ:** Matthew 7:12
- Who gets the best you have to offer?
- How can you start giving more than you take?
- There are four parts to the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew7:1-12
    1. Don't judge
    2. Do discern
    3. Pray
    4. Love others
- Of the four words/ideas above What would you say is the most challenging to you?
- We must discern where people are and what they're able to understand in faith and God.
- How do you understand the balance of discernment and judging?
- Pastor Kirby said the church is demanding that the world live up to God's moral code before they are changed by God - 'expecting redeemed behavior from unredeemed people'. We can't expect the world to change to God's laws before they have been changed by God's love! What they need first isn't the moral code, but the love of God.
- When, and what people, do you find yourself judging?
- Do you need help discerning where others are at spiritually so that you can lead with love?
- We quote the "golden rule" pretty easily. Is it just as easy for you to model it? Why/why not?
- What do you think of when you think of the Golden Rule?
- We said "Love makes you change".
- How do you see that in your relationships with others
- How do you see it in your relationship with God?
- Do others see change in you as you are 'in flight' with God?

Application Questions:

- Is there someone you are currently praying for to receive the Truth of God? Pray as a group for individuals who are named. And continue praying this week.
- Can others see the light in your interactions with them?
- How can you better practice giving more than you get?
- Pray together to set aside judgment in order to discern where others are spiritually that you will be able to love others and give to them what you would want them to give to you.