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bigIdea small group discussion



You've heard it many times: God helps those who help themselves. That might be true in another religion, but not in Christianity. In fact, the Bible teaches a radical alternative that might surprise you. Join us as we explore the radical and challenging teachings of Jesus.

BIG IDEA: Helping others is actually the best way to help yourself.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where have you heard the expression “God helps those who help themselves”? Has it seemed true to you? What parts of it resonate with you?
2. If you don't help yourself, who will take care of you?
3. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Matthew 5:38-48.* Do you have any fear or anxiety around taking Jesus' words seriously?
4. To be called a 'true child' of your father meant you were like your father. How has your Heavenly Father demonstrated that he loves his enemies? How has he gone the extra mile? How has he shown his love by putting our needs before his own comfort?
5. Do you agree that - in a very different sense - helping others is the best way to help yourself? How is life actually more rewarding when you put others first? How might that single principle change your marriage or your relationships at work?

MOVING FORWARD

Every time you are tempted to retaliate (even subtly) against someone who is acting out against you, stop and pray for them. Tell God you feel like they are your enemy, but that you're praying for them. Ask God to help you love them.



CHANGING YOUR MIND

“I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike.” Matthew 5:44-45

