

# LIFE GROUP

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### The Good Life: Out of Our Control March 16, 2025

#### Summary

Kyle spoke from Matthew 5, where Jesus teaches us that trying to control our lives and others can lead us away from true freedom. Instead of using oaths to make ourselves seem more trustworthy, we should simply be honest. Instead of seeking revenge when we are wronged, we should respond with kindness and trust God to bring justice. Instead of hating our enemies, we should love and pray for them, just as God shows love to everyone. Jesus calls us to live differently, reflecting God's love and trusting Him rather than trying to control everything ourselves. True freedom comes when we surrender control to God and live according to His ways.

#### Scripture

"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.' But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matthew 5:33-48 (NIV)

#### Let's Start

Can you share a personal experience where you showed love to an enemy? If so, what was the result?

#### Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

## Let's Talk

1. Why do people sometimes feel the need to make oaths or promises to prove they are telling the truth? How does Jesus challenge this way of thinking?
2. Kyle shared this quote from Charles Spurgeon: “We are to be as the anvil when bad men are the hammers.” How do you respond to that quote?
3. Why do you think Jesus tells us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute or hurt us? How does this reflect God’s character?
4. How does giving up control actually bring freedom? Can you think of a time in your life when trusting God instead of trying to control a situation helped you?
5. Ben Spencer found peace and freedom even while in prison. What can we learn from his story about trusting God in hard times?

## Let's Act

This week, look for an opportunity to show love to someone who is difficult to love—whether through kindness, forgiveness, or prayer. At the end of the week, reflect on how it felt to let go and trust God.

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