Small Group Discussion Guide

Extravagant Credibility & Love for Others | Matthew 5:33–48

Part 1: Oaths & Integrity (Matthew 5:33–37)

1. Jesus says our "yes" should mean yes and our "no" should mean no. Where in your daily life do you find it hardest to be consistently honest and trustworthy?

↳ *What makes integrity feel costly in those situations?*

2. The religious leaders of Jesus' day had created clever loopholes to avoid keeping their promises. In what ways do we do the same thing today — even with good intentions?

↳ *How does this kind of dishonesty, even on a small scale, damage our relationships and witness?*

Part 2: Retaliation & Generosity (Matthew 5:38–42)

3. The "eye for an eye" principle was originally meant to limit revenge, not encourage it. When you've been wronged, what is your natural instinct — and how does Jesus' call to respond with "extravagant goodness" challenge that?

↳ *Can you think of a time when someone responded to an offense with unexpected grace? What effect did it have?*

4. Jesus gives three concrete examples: turning the cheek, giving more than asked, and going the extra mile. Which of these feels most impossible to you right now, and why?

↳ *What would it look like practically to apply that principle in a current relationship or situation?*

Part 3: Enemy Love (Matthew 5:43–48)

5. The sermon asks a pointed question: "Who is your enemy?" Take a moment to sit with that. Who in your life — or in the broader world — do you find it genuinely hard to love or even wish well?

↳ *The sermon says loving our enemies requires "proximity and attentiveness." What would that look like for you?*

6. Jesus closes by calling us to be "perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect" — a wholeness rooted in how God loves even the unjust. How does reflecting on the way God has loved you when you were His "enemy" (Romans 5:10) change how you feel about loving those who have hurt you?

↳ *What is one specific step you could take this week to pray for or extend kindness toward someone you find difficult to love?*