

READ MATTHEW 25:37-40

DAY 4

Jesus really raised the game when He said these words. He opened His friends' eyes to a very simple, very powerful truth.

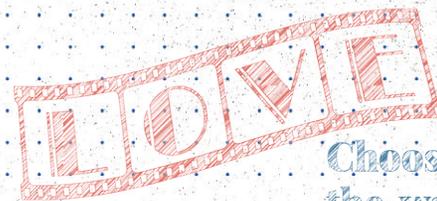
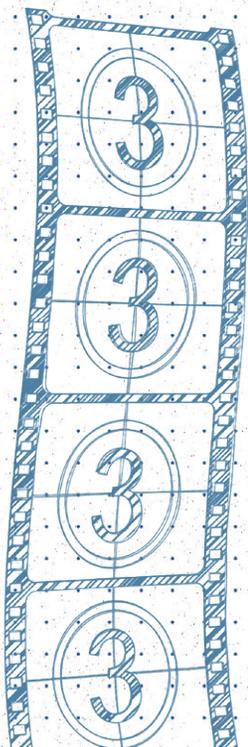
When we come face to face with people, there's always more at stake than we think. We might be tempted to ignore someone who looks sad or lonely, or get super-excited about our awesome lunch when someone at the next table doesn't have enough to eat. But God wants us to be on the lookout for ways to show love. He wants us to be willing to share, to take the time to be a friend, and to be ready to show love.

When we treat people that way, it's like we're doing that directly for Jesus. We can't afford to be selfish or lazy, because His kind of love requires us to take action.

Find a sticky note and write a lightning bolt and "RAISE YOUR GAME." Put it on your bathroom mirror for the next few days, to motivate you to look out for others' needs.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. How can you "raise your game" this week and put others' needs above your own?
2. What kind of message does it send about following Jesus when we live that way?
3. Why do other people need to see and experience that kind of selfless love from us?



Choosing to treat others
the way you want to be treated

READ MARK 6:34

DAY 1

It's amazing to read how Jesus fed a crowd of thousands of people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. It was a true miracle, and it definitely showed that Jesus could do anything!

But you know what? It's just as amazing to read the events that led up to that miracle because of Jesus' love and compassion for the people.

Jesus' friends, the disciples, had been out teaching in the towns, healing people, and asking them to turn away from their sins. And they were tired! The Bible says they hadn't even had a chance to eat yet. Jesus took them in a boat to a quiet place where they could rest, but the people recognized them and got there ahead of them.

How would you feel in that situation? Wouldn't you be a little frustrated? The disciples had been doing so much hard work; didn't they deserve a little downtime?

But that's not how Jesus felt. Instead, He saw that the people in the crowd were trying to follow Him because they really *needed* Him. He had compassion on them. He stopped what He was doing and began to teach them.

CHALLENGE yourself to be like Jesus. Look around and see how you can help someone who needs you..

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Do you get annoyed when people interrupt you because they need something?
2. Has there ever been a time that you chose to stop what you were doing and show love to them?
3. What do you think our good (or bad) attitude says to the person who needs our help?

WEEK THREE

4TH - 5TH

READ 1 JOHN 3:17

DAY 2

Have you ever seen someone in need and you weren't sure what to do about it? Maybe a friend told you they're having a really tough time at home. Maybe you're riding in the car and you see someone holding up a sign asking for food or money, or a job.

It can be tough to know exactly what to do in those situations. But this verse makes it clear: if the love of God is in us, then we should CARE about what those people are going through. And if we're able to, we should DO something to help them.

There are lots of ways to do that. You can tell your parent or teacher if someone you know is going through something really difficult. If someone's upset, you can ask them if there's anything you can do or just give them a hug and let them know you're praying for them. If you see someone in need out on the street, you can talk to your parents about how they might give money to your church or other organizations that can help people who are facing hard times. You could even talk about serving somewhere with your family to help people who need to feel love and compassion.

TALK to your parents about what you could do (or what you already do) to help people in need

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Do you think there's always an easy solution to people's needs?
2. Do you think you can solve every need around you?
3. So why is it important that we do *something* to help when we see a need?

READ GALATIANS 6:2

DAY 3

Find your school backpack and look inside it. Is it full of books? If not, go ahead and put a few in there. Now, put it on your back.

Find your brother or sister's backpack and put that one on too facing front. (Or if you don't have a sibling, put on your parent's work bag or something else that's heavy.) Walk around a little bit. Getting tired?

OK, you can take off those backpacks. Isn't it true that your own "heavy load" seems like enough for you to have to deal with? And we're not just talking about backpacks here. Think about all the things you have to do and keep straight for yourself. You've got plenty of homework to do, plenty of chores, plenty of friendships, and everything else that takes up your time.

But this verse says that God doesn't want us to only think about ourselves. He has a higher standard for us. He wants us to be willing to carry each other's heavy loads and to care about what *other* people have to deal with. He wants us to be willing to lend a hand and help them with whatever's going on in their lives.

THINK of a way you can carry a heavy load for your brother or sister or friend this week.

THINK ABOUT IT:

1. Does it come naturally to want to carry each other's heavy loads?
2. Has someone ever carried your heavy load when you were stressed out or facing something tough?
3. When we help others in that way, how are we acting more like Jesus?

**GIVE TO OTHERS
WHO ARE IN NEED.**

