

TENSIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS

GROUP LEADER GUIDE: WEEK THREE

THE VALUE OF LIFE

Recap: **Read Matthew 5:21-26.** Based on the sermon before this one, what does the mouth reveal about the heart?

Matthew 15:18-19, Luke 6:45

These three attitudes were connected with a murderous heart: anger, calling people names, and degrading or devaluing others.

How have you seen this played out in your life?
Did you take the challenge? (**Challenge: For one day, listen to what you say. Listen to what you don't say.**)
If so, what did you learn that you would be willing to share?.

Read **verses 22-26 from Matthew 5.** How do the commands Jesus gives in verses 22-26 fulfill or explain completely God's law "You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment."?

Read **verses 23-24.** What does true religion involve us doing? What is the benefit of "settling matters quickly" and how does that help us to develop a heart that values the lives of others? How does following these commands keep us in Jesus' perfect love and prevent us from having a murderous heart? What does this section teach us about God's heart?

Leaders note: Make sure they see God's heart for all people is love. Love that has no anger towards us, or words that devalue us or belittle us, or name calling behind our backs. His is a heart desiring restoration for our broken relationship to Him, to reconcile with all humanity through Jesus Christ.

Do you have any relationships in your life that need reconciliation? Do you need to reconcile with God?

KEY VERSES

God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us (through trusting in Jesus Christ our Lord).

Romans 5:5

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray as a group for those relationships that may need healing and reconciling.

****The Holy Spirit and Prayer****
And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Romans 8:26-28 NLT