

SERIES BIG IDEA:

We are better together when we love one another.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

There are no loopholes to loving others when we follow Jesus.

TEACHING SUMMARY:

In this teaching, we talked about how we are to love the same way Jesus loved and not try to find our way out. In life loopholes are all over. We have been looking for them since we are kids. As kids we asked questions like “But what about this,” and “How much can I get away with before I actually get in trouble?” Some of us were more inclined to push boundaries and look for loopholes than others but we all have done that and continue to.

As adults it doesn’t look much different, especially when it comes to loving others. Our default is often to love differently or less based upon the beliefs of others, their political leanings, the way they treat us, or anything that sets them apart from how we think people should live.

Jesus sets a standard that is higher. With Him we can’t have a loophole. We are called to love as He loves and that means to love all. His sacrifice on the cross means that He is the ultimate standard or love and we have to constantly stand ready to show love to all as He did on the cross.

TALK IT OVER:

When you think of the idea of loopholes what comes to mind?

Has there been anyone in your life that was easy to not love? What made them difficult to love?

How does it make you feel to realize you are called to love them regardless?

Does the fact of Jesus’ unconditional love for you make loving others, even those difficult to love, any easier? Why or why not?

What is one next step you can take to love more like Jesus loved?

FURTHER READING:

Day 1: Colossians 3:1-3

Day 2: Galatians 2:20

Day 3: 1 Peter 2:9-10

Day 4: Colossians 3:12-14

Day 5: Matthew 25:31-40

Day 6: Matthew 5:41-46

