

Extra Mile Mentality, November 12, 2023

Ice Breaker:

Share a personal experience where you went the extra mile to help someone or where someone went the extra mile to help you. What impact did that act of kindness have on you?

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Matthew 5:43-48 • Jesus challenges us to love even those who are difficult to love. Who are some people in your life that you find challenging to love or show compassion to? (*No names please*) What makes it difficult, and have you ever made excuses to avoid loving them?
2. Reflect on Matthew 5:38-42. How does Jesus encourage us to have an "extra mile mentality" in our love for others? What does this mentality look like in today's context, and how can we practice it in our daily lives?
3. In Luke 10:25-29, the expert in the Law tries to limit the definition of "neighbor." How do people today often try to limit who they consider neighbors, and what are some barriers that prevent us from loving people beyond those boundaries? How does Jesus expand our understanding of being a neighbor?
4. Read Luke 10:30-37 • Consider the actions of the Good Samaritan in the parable. How does his willingness to go the extra mile align with the "extra mile mentality" discussed earlier? Why is it significant that this love was shown between a Jew and a Samaritan, two groups with historical tensions?
5. As you reflect on the parable of the Good Samaritan, consider it from a different perspective: what if we are not the Good Samaritan, but rather the wounded man on the side of the road? How does this change our interpretation of the parable, and how does it motivate us to love others with this level of compassion?

Key Takeaway or Action Item:

Think of one practical way you can "go the extra mile" for someone in need this week. It could be someone you find challenging to love or a complete stranger. Commit to taking this action step to live out the "extra mile mentality" discussed during the session.