

Discipleship & Community

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Look

Sometimes leaders, in the church, at work, in our families, in our government, make decisions as if the only thing that matters is what they want, or how they want things to be. They forget, or maybe don't care, how their decisions will affect the community around them.

1. Have you ever been part of a 'community' (work, family, city, church) that had a leader who made choices that negatively affected the community?
2. Were they doing it on purpose, or were they just oblivious?
3. What affect did that have on you personally? What happened to the community?

Book Matthew 5:21-37

In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explains to his disciples that discipleship is not just for their own sake, but for the sake of those around them. As disciples, their actions affect the people around them – the people in their community.

1. What does Jesus say about how we are to be in relationship with one another?
2. How do you feel about Jesus telling you to tear parts of your body out? What might be the lesson we are to learn from such startling language? What is the point of what Jesus is saying there? How does this affect others?
3. Why might Jesus take such a strong stance against divorce? How might we interpret this today?

Took

Discipleship is not just about our own journey towards God, but rather a community journeying together towards God. The choices that we make as disciples, affect those around us, and Jesus tells us to care for one another.

1. What might it look like for you today to reconcile a relationship with someone in your life or in your 'community' before you go to the altar? Is there anyone with which you need to reconcile?
2. What other ways are you working to care for your 'community' – whether it be at church, work, school, or somewhere else?