



**Week of October 10, 2021**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Think about a time when you served someone else in the last year. If you were really honest about your reasons for serving, were they selfish or selfless? Did you seek to get any kind of reward or recognition?
2. Read 1 Timothy 6:17. Do you consider yourself to be rich? If a person truly felt rich, and was committed to following Jesus, how would they respond? What would their life be characterized by?
3. Read Matthew 5:46-48. We usually think we are loving because we love those who love us, but Jesus raised the standard of love. What do you think his followers thought when they were put on the same level as pagans?
4. Paul said, "We love God by caring for people God loves." How does this definition of loving God challenge your thinking?
5. As a result of what we have learned, how will you serve this month to be FOR others? What will you do to be generous and willing to share your time and resources?

6. As a small group, what could we do together to serve to meet a need? Consider appointing a serving champion in your group.

### **Moving Forward**

We love God by **caring** for people God loves. We love God when we love people and serve people that matter to God, whether God matters to them or not. We love God by caring for people who can't do anything for us. We love God by loving every person we see because they matter deeply to our Heavenly Father. That means we love the ones who are down and out and people say they brought it all on themselves. That means we love the people who are powerful and wealthy and people say they've exploited others to get there. And we love everyone in between.

### **1 Timothy 6:17-18**

Command those who are rich in this present world...to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

### **Matthew 5:43-48**

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup>But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup>If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup>And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup>Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.