



Adversity: At Our Worst | August 10, 2016

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

If you feel like the world is going to “hell in a hand basket,” don’t check out or give up. We need more good people living graciously and generously even when we are at our worst.

Key Verse

Luke 6:31-36 (MSG)

Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that. If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? Garden-variety sinners do that. If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do you think that’s charity? The stingiest of pawnbrokers does that.

I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You’ll never—I promise—regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we’re at our worst.

Discussion

It is so easy to throw our hands up when things aren’t going as we feel they should be. It’s also easy to get caught up in the slander, the negativity, and the fervor of fear.

1. What is your biggest concern in the world right now?
2. What is your gut reaction to these things that make you upset?

These concerns typically have to do with someone or something that has a differing worldview, philosophical belief, race, or political stance. Often these concerns are met with fear, anger, and hopelessness. However, the Bible instructs us to do the opposite...to act on the contrary.

3. What would it look like for you to love the unlovable, give to someone/something that cannot give back, or help those who don’t deserve it?
4. How would living out this God-created identity change the way you react and interact around really difficult, often painful, and polarizing topics and situations?

What’s Next?

It is unlikely that any one of us will change the whole world on our own; however, we can change the way we interact with people on a daily basis. We can change the way our communities act and react to disagreements and tragedy. This week commit to two things:

1. Pray. Pray for the situation or individual. If nothing else, it will change your heart on the situation and shift your heart toward God.
2. Don't give up. We need more Christ-followers hanging in and weighing in. Live graciously and generously even when we are at our worst!