



WEEK Nov 7 – 13

MAIN IDEA

Followers of Christ care about and respond to the suffering in this world.

CHECK IN (HIGHS & LOWS) 15 min

A great, quick way to catch the highlights of what is happening in the lives of the people in your group is to take turns quickly sharing the “highs & lows” of your week. High: What was the highlight of your week? Low: What was the low point of your week?

SETTLE IN (ICE BREAKER) 10 min

1. Tell the group about a time you went through a hard time and it seemed like no one cared.

DIG IN (UNDERSTANDING) 15 min

2. Read Matthew 23:13. What does Jesus accuse the Pharisees of doing? What might that look like in today’s Christianity?
3. Read Matthew 23:23-24. This is a rebuke of the Pharisees but they still took some parts of their faith very seriously. From this passage and from what you know about the Pharisees, what were parts of their faith they took seriously?
4. What commands from God were they neglecting? How important are these aspects of God’s commands to the heart of Jesus?

5. Read Matthew 25:31-46. Whoa! What sticks out to you from this passage?
6. What are the markers of those who live the righteous life of faith? How is this practiced in our world today?
7. Read Matthew 7:21-23 and reflect back on 25:41-45. What is the warning we are being given?
8. Read 1 John 3:16-18. What are the instructions given in this passage?
9. Where do you see suffering in your world? Where have you perhaps been indifferent to suffering in your world? What could you do about it?

GEAR UP (APPLICATION) 20 min

10. What is one practical step you can take this week to alleviate suffering?

STEP UP (HOMEWORK) 5 min

11. Spend some time in the Bible and allow it to convict you. Spend some time each day giving those convictions to God and begin walking as you feel called in that area (this is called repentance). Here is the “What Made Jesus Mad” Bible reading plan. <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/15452-what-made-jesus-mad>.