



## Divine Interruption

Luke 6

### Small Group Plan

Gandhi was a Hindu, but he was exposed to Christianity as a child in India, as a student in England and as a lawyer in South Africa. He admired the life and teachings of Jesus, especially the Sermon on the Mount. He was inspired to follow the example of Jesus, but after observing the lives of Christians he wrote, *“For me to believe in their Redeemer, their lives must show they are redeemed.”* And so, sadly Gandhi never became a Christian.

*“Love ... keeps no record of wrongs”*

— New International Version —

*“Love ... Doesn’t keep score”*

— The Message —

*“Love does not count up wrongs”*

— New Century Version —

*“Love doesn’t tally wrongs”*

— The Voice —

*“Love ... does not keep account of evil”*

— J. B. Phillips —

*“Love ... does not hold grudges”*

— The Living Bible —

These statements from 1 Corinthians 13:5 are true in the lives of those who allow God’s divine interruption. When hate is in the way, when revenge has been planned and when retaliation is scheduled, lives given to Jesus are interrupted by God’s divine love. And He changes our course of action. He offers us a much better way.

### **OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- Which of the above translations communicate best to you? Explain why.
- Why does Paul say that love can’t keep a record of wrongs?

## LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

### — WILL WE ALLOW GOD'S INTERRUPTION? —

#### Luke 6:27-30

<sup>27</sup>“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup>If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

- Describe the worldly style that God is interrupting?
- Why does Jesus begin with the words, “to you who are listening I say ...”? Compare Mark 4:9 – “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”
- Think through the kinds of mistreatment Jesus mentions here:
  - “those who **hate** ...”
  - “those who **curse** ...”
  - “those who **mistreat** ...”
  - “someone **slaps** ...”
  - “some **takes** ...”
- Which of these situations would be the most difficult for you to respond to in love? Explain.
- Who do you know who has done the best job of returning love for mistreatment?

### — DO WE WANT TO BE DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD? —

#### Luke 6:30-35a

<sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. <sup>34</sup>And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back.

- Think of several examples of Jesus words “do to others as you would have them do to you” (v. 31). What would this look like?
- How did Jesus explain the difference between his followers and those he called “sinners” (vs. 33-34)?
- How would you explain the reasoning behind Jesus command to love people unconditionally?

— DO WE REALLY WANT GOD TO SHAPE OUR HEARTS? —

**Luke 6:35b-36**

<sup>35</sup> Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

- What title did Jesus give to those who love their enemies (vs. 35)?
- How would you define this title?
- To understand what it means for God to be “kind to the ungrateful and wicked” we must first understand what these words mean. How would you describe an “ungrateful” person? How would you describe a “wicked” person?
- How do the words “ungrateful” and “wicked” help us to understand the meaning of “merciful”?

**USE IT / APPLY IT ...**

- What can we **stop doing** so that we can more easily “listen” (v. 27) to Jesus?
- What can we **start doing** to help us better listen to Jesus?
- According to Jesus what are the differences between saints and sinners?
- What does it actually look like when we bless those who curse us?
- Why is forgiveness sometimes difficult to give?
- Close with prayer asking God to show us again how “kind” and “merciful” He has been to us (vs. 36). Praise and thank Him and then commit again to extend His kindness and mercy to our city and our world.