

November Development Guide

SUBJECT: LET LOVE LEAD



Let love lead.

God's unconditional love transforms everyone it touches. It energizes our lives, directs our church culture, and sets our strategy. We don't *lead* people into the Kingdom—we *love* them into the Kingdom.

Proverbs 3:3 (AMP) – *Do not let mercy and kindness and truth leave you (instead let these qualities define you); Bind them securely around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.*

We are called to let kindness and mercy define us. We are to lead with them. Read the story of the Good Samaritan found in Luke 10:30-37 that was told in the video.

Mercy and kindness are love in action. Here are five ways in which we can express that action:

1. I must see the needs of people around me. I need to be considerate.

- **1 Corinthians 10:24** tells us to look out for the good of others.
- The Samaritan saw the man in need. He wasn't so busy that he looked past him.
- Love begins with seeing and being considerate of others.
- You can't care unless you are aware. You can't meet the need until you see the need.
- Everyone has needs and wounds. Everyone is fighting some kind of battle.
- Be kind and merciful. See people's wounds and stop to help.
- Slow down and see people. Hurry is the death of kindness. The slower you go the more you'll see. If you care, you will be aware. Be considerate.

2. I must sympathize with others pain. I need to be compassionate.

- **Colossians 3:12** – *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.*
- The Bible says when the Samaritan saw the Jewish man, he was filled with compassion.
- The Bible says we should mourn with those that mourn and rejoice with those that rejoice. We should mirror and feel their emotions.
- Part of sympathizing with others' pain and being compassionate is being a good listener. We need to listen better. We sympathize with our ears.
- Most people listen with the intent to reply instead of to understand. Good listeners listen with intent to understand the person.
- Sometimes loving well is just listening to others hurts and pains.
- Everyone has the need to be understood and validated. These needs are met just by being present and listening to someone express what they are going through.
- One of the keys to mercy and kindness is to stop asking yourself, "What's wrong with them?" Instead, ask yourself, "What happened to them?" By listening to them, you will see their hurt and pain. You will have better compassion and mercy for where they are.
- Hurting people hurt people. Everyone has some type of trauma in their lives. What trauma did they experience to get that way? Listen to others and be compassionate.

3. I must seize the moment to help. I need to be responsive.

- **Luke 6:36 (AMP)** – *Be merciful (responsive, compassionate, tender hearted) just as your heavenly Father is merciful.*

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- People need you when they need you. Don't delay; be responsive.
- The Samaritan man had something he was going to do that day. He had a plan, something important to accomplish, or maybe something fun to do. But, he stopped and was responsive and was the first responder to the man that needed help.
- If you're going to be kind and merciful, you must be willing to be interrupted.
- It's the ministry of being present and responsive.

4. I must spend whatever it takes. I need to be generous.

- **Micah 6:8 (AMP)** – *He has shown you, o mortal man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love (and diligently practice) mercy (compassion and kindness) and to walk humbly with your God.*
- God is generous. He is full of kindness and mercy. We need to return that generosity.
- Being merciful and kind requires some sacrifice.
- It will take your time, money, and skills or talent to help people.
- I'm guessing it took up most of the Samaritan's day to help that hurt man. He paid money for the man to be taken care of. He used his skills and energy to tend to the man's wounds. He was generous to the man in need.
- Be generous. Use your time, talents, and resources to help others.

5. I must forgive others. I need to be forgiving.

- **Ephesians 4:32** – *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ forgave you.*
- For the Samaritan man to help the Jewish man, he had to forgive him. Remember, those people groups hated each other. He had to forgive the hate and see the person.
- To truly forgive others, we must understand there was a debt that was paid for us that we could never repay. The forgiven, forgive.
- Forgiveness is a big deal to God. Peter asked Jesus how many times should we forgive someone. Peter asked, "Like 7 times?" And Jesus said, "No, 7 times 70." What He was really saying is your forgiveness should be never-ending toward others, just like God's forgiveness and love is never-ending toward us.
- Matthew 6:15 says, "If you don't forgive others of their sins, your heavenly Father will not forgive you of your sins." That is a big statement.
- To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in us.
- Holding a grudge, or an offense, and deciding not to forgive is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to be harmed.
- Instead, we are called to forgive and pray for those who hurt us.
- To be clear, forgiving doesn't mean you forget or that it's okay for someone to hurt you. You may have to set up wise boundaries with certain people in your life.
- Sometimes the hardest person to forgive can be yourself. If that's you, remember God still loves you, He wants you, He calls you by name, and you need to show yourself mercy.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were your biggest takeaways from this teaching?
2. How will you apply what you learned?
3. When was the last time that it was difficult to show mercy and kindness to someone? Describe that situation.