



WORLD MANDATE

We had an amazing time at World Mandate this past weekend! There will be two options for this week's lesson. The first is watching JT Thomas's message from Saturday. The second is focusing on the key theme of God's heart for those in need. Feel free to choose which you think will be more appropriate for your group.

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other's prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

Follow up from last week: Let those who went to World Mandate share a little bit about what God spoke to them, as a way for the richness from this weekend to pass on to all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Super Bowl Viewing Party (this Sunday at 3pm): Come hangout with our church family as we enjoy a good game together. Epicentre will provide drinks and everyone else can bring snacks to share. We will also be screening inappropriate commercials so rest assured!

Friendship with God Life U: A 3-part class on what friendship with God means and looks like. It will run on Feb 5, 12, and 26 from 12-1:30PM in Zwemmer. Lunch will be available upon reservation for \$5/per week. More details at <http://epicentrechurch.org/events/2017/2/5/life-university-friendship-with-god>.

Art of Marriage: A 6 week course designed to help couples (both married or not) strengthen their marriages/relationships. Starts March 12 from 12-2PM in the Hope Room. Please encourage engaged couples in particular to join since we won't be having a premarital class in the near future. More details at <http://epicentrechurch.org/events/2016/1/26/the-art-of-marriage>.

Cleansing Stream: An inner healing class for those who need breakthrough, healing in dealing with past issues that have plagued them, issues of brokenness and pain. Begins March 26 from 12-2PM in Zwemmer. Culminates in a retreat, 5/21. Limited to the first 50 to sign up. More details at <http://epicentrechurch.org/events/2017/2/26/life-university-cleansing-stream>.

OPTION 1: JT Thomas's Message from Saturday

This was one of the most powerful World Mandate messages we've heard and was incredibly timely and helpful given the increase in racial tension and unrest in America over these last few years. Especially if a significant portion of your LG members didn't go to WMW, you might want to consider showing this video for LG and then taking time to debrief it at the end. You can access the message here: <https://vimeo.com/201950038?ref=em-share>.

OPTION 2: MATT 25:31-43

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. **32** All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. **34** "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. **35** For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, **36** I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' **37** "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38** When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? **39** When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' **40** "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' **41** "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. **42** For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, **43** I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' **44** "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' **45** "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' **46** "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Introduction Question: Was there ever a time when you were in need and someone stepped in to help you in your time of need? Or was there a time when you stepped out to help someone in their time of need?

Key Discussion Questions:

- What will happen in the future according to this passage?
- Why would the King separate the sheep from the goats?
- Who are the sheep? Who are the goats?
- What will be the fate of the sheep/goats?
- How does Jesus understand caring for those in need as caring for Jesus himself?
- Why does Jesus respond so harshly to the goats?
- Who are the ones in need in our world today? What is being done to help them? What can we do?

Reflection Question: Who are the ones in need in our society/communities today? What might Jesus have me do?

Small Groups: Break up into groups of 3-4 to share about what our role might be among the needy in our society/communities today. Then pray for each other to be able to step into those roles. And encourage these small groups to continue supporting each other throughout the next week as we actively put this passage into practice.

MATTHEW 25:31-46

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