

21st CENTURY CHURCH

WEEK 3: There Are No Loopholes

PURPOSE OF THE GROUP: To give everyone in the group the opportunity to find authentic community and spiritual growth. A group is where you are known, and you grow.

YOUR PERSONAL ROLE: Watch or listen to the message. Show up at group. Be real. (Life is better connected)

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus new commandment calls for us to focus on those around us. The old religion was you focused. The 21st century church requires us to love the people around us. No loopholes. No excuses. No shortcuts.

📺 **WATCH THE MESSAGE VIDEO ON THE ROCKPOINTE APP OR WEBSITE OR WALK THROUGH THE POINTS OF THE MESSAGE IN THE NOTES SECTION.**

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT:

1. Talk about a time this week when someone did a small act of kindness for you. What did it do for your day or your week?
2. What are some of the costs of Christians being more concerned with following rules than in the ways they mistreat others? How could it influence the way unchurched people view God?
3. During the message we discussed your devotion to God. We discovered that devotion is shown, verified, and validated by your love for others. Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
4. **Read Matthew 25:31–40.** In what ways does this passage challenge your assumptions about God? What are its effects in your daily life?
5. What is one group of people that is different from you that you find difficult to love? Consider the words of Matthew 25:31–40 in light of that group. What are some obstacles you would have to overcome to love that group of people?
6. Think about a difficult relationship in your life. In that relationship, what does loving them require of you? Be specific. What can this group do to support you and hold you accountable as you move to love that person?

Love offers us no place to hide. It offers no loopholes, shortcuts, or workarounds. But aren't you glad Jesus didn't look for a loophole to loving you? What does love demand from you at home, at work, on the little league field, in traffic, in line at the grocery store? We almost always know the answer to that question. The hard part is actually doing *what we know love demands*.

KEY VERSE OF THE WEEK: *Matthew 25:40*

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.'

HOW CAN THIS GROUP PRAY FOR YOU THIS WEEK?

ASK SOMEONE TO PRAY TO END THE GROUP TIME.