



## WEEK 2

### HYBRID TEACHING GUIDE

# CANCELED

### THE BIG IDEA

Love people who are in need.

### THE BIBLE

Mark 10:46-52; Luke 8:40-48;  
Matthew 25:31-46

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

#### IMAGES | Older People Learn Social Media

- Last week we kicked things off by talking a little bit about “cancel culture,” and how social media can sometimes be a pretty ugly and angry place. But social media can also be a pretty wholesome and entertaining place — especially when grandparents get involved.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show a few of your favorite screenshots featuring elderly people who are confused about social media. [Here's an article](#) with plenty of examples! You may want to have a volunteer or student join you at the front and read the posts out loud.

#### VIDEO | “That’s Not How Any of This Works”

- I love when my grandparents post weird stuff on the internet, but I wouldn’t mind spending a little less time being their own personal tech support. See if this reminds you of anyone in your family.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this commercial](#) from Esurance of grandmas who don’t understand social media. If you’d like, you can edit out the advertisement and only showing a portion of the clip (0:00–0:09 and 0:15–0:21).

#### QUESTION | Have you ever had to help someone in your family with technology?

- Does anyone have a family member who is a little confused about how the internet works? **Have you ever had to help them solve a technology problem?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give a few students a chance to share funny stories of helping family members figure out technology. Keep things fun and friendly, but ask questions like, “Were you frustrated? Do you ever get sick of answering their technology questions?”
- I’m sure you’re happy to help your grandparents, aunts, uncles, or parents figure out their technology questions – the first fifty questions, anyway. But after that, I’d understand if you started to lose your patience.
- It’s easy to get frustrated, especially with family, when someone needs help doing something that seems super easy and basic to us. I’m sure there are times you want to tell Aunt Edna to just “look it up on YouTube,” but then you might have to explain YouTube to her too.
- Every day, we face opportunities to help others in small ways, whether it’s showing your grandma how to use emojis, or helping a kid tie their shoe, or letting someone at your lunch table know they have cafeteria corn stuck in their teeth. (Gross.)
  - Depending on the person, the need, your mood, and how busy you are, maybe you help them! Or . . . maybe you don’t.
  - Everyone is helpful and generous sometimes, but what about the times we’d rather not be helpful – when we’re too busy, annoyed, tired, or sure someone else will help if we don’t?

## DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share.
  - **Have you ever had to give or ask for help for something really obvious, easy, or funny? What was it?**
  - **Have you ever lost your patience when you were trying to help someone? Tell us about it!**
  - **Why do you think most people don’t help each other more often?**

**SO WHAT?** *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

## VIDEO | Would you stop if you saw this little girl on the street?

- Every day, we’re surrounded by people who need help with things that are a lot more serious than figuring out how to post a picture on Facebook.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play [this video from UNICEF](#).
- I don’t know what you thought or felt when you watched that video. Maybe you thought about a time when you failed to help someone in need. Maybe you remembered a time when you needed help, but no one was there for you. Maybe you did both.
  - When we’re in need, we’re at our most vulnerable. But unfortunately, we don’t always respond with compassion, care, or concern when we see someone else in need. Instead, we respond with impatience, discomfort, disgust, or suspicion.
  - The reality is that sometimes we’ll be the ones who are able to help, and sometimes we’ll be the ones in need. Knowing that, wouldn’t you like to live in a world where we all cared for each other when we’re at our most vulnerable? I would.
- I believe that kind of world is possible and that Jesus is challenging us to go and create it.

## DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
  - **When you watched the video of the little girl who needed help, what did you notice, think, or feel?**
    - ✦ **In that video, how did people respond to the little girl's needs? Do you think you've ever behaved that way when someone was in need?**
    - ✦ **What do you wish the people in that video could have done differently?**

## SCRIPTURE | Mark 10:46-52

- In the Gospels (those are the first four books of the New Testament that tell us stories of Jesus' life) we find examples of Jesus meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people.
- Jesus' days were often interrupted by people's cries for help, like the time a blind man named Bartimaeus shouted at Him while He walked down the road.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read or summarize Mark 10:46-52.
- Does this remind you of the video we just watched? Bartimaeus pleaded for help, but was told to be quiet. The crowds couldn't be bothered. To them, he was just another beggar, not worthy of their help or attention.
- But to Jesus, Bartimaeus was worthy of His time, His attention, and His help.

## SCRIPTURE | Luke 8:40-48

- On another day, Jesus was busy again. He was on His way to save the life of a dying girl when He was interrupted by someone who needed His help.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read or summarize Luke 8:40-48.
- Because of her gender and illness, this woman would not have been seen as someone worthy of Jesus' time or attention. She most likely believed this too – that's why she didn't try to speak to Jesus, but simply reached out to touch the edge of his robe instead. After all, Jesus was an important man, and she wasn't.
- But to Jesus, she was worthy of His time, His attention, and His help. He spoke to her, called her "daughter," and met her needs with love.

## OBJECT LESSON | Sheep and Goats

- But Jesus didn't just show us how to care for people in need. He talked about it too. Shortly before His death, Jesus used a parable to explain something important about God and the Kingdom of God. In this parable, He used two animals: sheep and goats.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask a handful of students to join you at the front for the next few minutes. Instruct at least three of them to be sheep, and the rest goats. If you'd like, dress your students up in sheep and goat [headbands](#) or [masks](#) to make things entertaining.
- Before we read what Jesus had to say about sheep and goats, there's something you need to know about these animals.

- Goats are pretty independent. Even when they're members of a herd, they often explore or head out alone. They tend to be more concerned about themselves than they are about their goat friends. (Hey, goats – go skip around and do your own thing.)
- Sheep on the other hand, are all about their herd. They stick together at all times. (Hey, sheep – huddle up.)
- Keep this in mind as we read this parable from Jesus.

## SCRIPTURE | Matthew 25:31-46

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Matthew 25:31-46. As you do, you can either bring more students to the front to act out the parable (like a king and a few angels), or you can keep things simple with your sheep huddled together and goats wandering around. If you're going to have a king, give him a [toy crown](#) and a chair to be his throne. If you're going to have angels, give them [halos and wings](#) – and maybe make them sing an angelic chorus or two.
- How does Jesus judge who are sheep and who are goats? He makes his decision according to how they treat people – specifically, people who are in need.
  - **GOATS:** The “unrighteous” goats were the ones who didn’t care for people in need – maybe because they were too busy thinking about themselves. In the video we watched earlier, this might have referred to the people who asked the little girl to be removed from the restaurant rather than giving her something to eat.
  - **SHEEP:** The “righteous” sheep were the ones who saw someone in need and ran to help – maybe because they saw themselves as part of a herd and were concerned about the other sheep nearby. According to Jesus, sheep are the kind of people who keep their eyes open for the needs of others and ask, “How can I help?”
- Who knew farm animals could teach us so much about caring for each other?
- Through His example and His teachings, Jesus consistently cared for people who had been canceled, forgotten, disrespected, and ignored because of their needs. And now He challenges you to do the same – to **love people who are in need.**

## NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

### HOW TO MEET NEEDS – AND HOW NOT TO

- When we study the actions and the teachings of Jesus, here are a few things we can learn about how to meet the needs of others – and how not to.
  - **IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT OUR ACTIONS – IT'S ABOUT OUR HEARTS.** Jesus doesn't challenge us to only act concerned about others, or to put on a show of meeting people's needs. In this parable, the sheep didn't know anyone had noticed what they did for others, but they did it anyway. Jesus doesn't only care about what we do. He cares about what's happening inside our hearts and minds too.
  - **IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT LOVING OTHERS – IT'S ABOUT LOVING GOD.** Jesus challenges us to love others well, yes. But He's letting us in on a secret: when we love others by meeting their needs, we show our love for Jesus. Every time we care for someone who is vulnerable, it's a gift of love and worship to God.

- **IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE – IT'S ABOUT WHAT WE CAN GIVE.** As we've talked about meeting the needs of others, maybe you've thought, "I can't help anyone. My family doesn't have a lot of money. I don't have a lot to give." But Jesus wasn't talking to only wealthy or important people in these passages. He was talking to ordinary people like you and me! No matter what we have (time, compassion, money, friendship, skills), Jesus says we can use it for God's purposes and Kingdom when we give sacrificially, passionately, and willingly.
- **IT'S NOT ABOUT "THEM" – IT'S ABOUT "US."** Sometimes when we talk about meeting others' needs, we talk as though we're the people with all the power, resources, or stuff to share, while "people in need" are a separate group of people. When we think this way, it's easy to see someone as if they're less valuable than we are, even while we're serving them! But do you remember the way Jesus spoke to the blind man and the sick woman who needed His help? He treated them not just with compassion, but with respect. He made the crowds pay attention to them. Instead of speaking for them, He asked them to speak for themselves. Jesus didn't just give people charity – He gave people respect. We can do that too, when we remember that it's not about "us" and "the people who need us." There is only "us." We're all equally loved, seen, and valued by God.

## DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
  - ★ **Reread Mark 10:46-52 or Luke 8:40-48. What did you notice about the way Jesus treated Bartimaeus and the ill woman?**
  - **If Jesus lived in our community or went to your school, what kinds of needs do you think He would be meeting?**

## VIDEO | Class Help

- So how do we do this? How can we care for the people around us who are in need? Do we need to wait for a little girl to walk up to us in a restaurant? Do we need to ask God to help us heal the blind or sick? How to we practically meet the needs of people around us?
- There are so many opportunities all around us because there are so many needs all around us, if we're paying attention. Just like Jesus noticed the needs of Bartimaeus and the sick woman, what would it look like for you to notice a need and then respond in love? Here's one example . . .
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the first 58 seconds of [this video](#), where students gave new clothes to a classmate they had been bullying.
- Remember how we said that being in need makes someone vulnerable? And that, sometimes, people treat vulnerable people with cruelty? That's exactly what happened here. But then something else happened.
  - Some of the same students who had been ignoring and mocking this boy realized

they had the ability to right their wrongs by meeting his needs.

- Instead of spending money on themselves, they spent it on clothes for their classmate who was vulnerable and in need. But the clothes were only part of what they gave him. These boys also gave him respect, compassion, and kindness.
- More than likely, they had to sacrifice something to meet those needs. Maybe it wasn't even money. Maybe it was popularity or a spot at a lunch table.
- These boys found a way use what they had to meet someone's need. How might you do the same? Could you . . .
  - Give a meal to someone who needs it?
  - Share a meal with someone who's lonely?
  - Stay after school to help someone study?
  - Help a friend perfect their free throw before basketball tryouts?
  - Check in on someone who's going through a hard time?

### STORY | **Talk about a time when someone loved you when you were in need.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Briefly talk about a time when someone met a small but important need for you. It could be a physical need, but it could also be an emotional need. The point is to remind students that needs exist all around them — they just need to look for them.*
- In Jesus' time, people in need were often "canceled" by society instead of helped. They were ignored, judged, or left to fend for themselves. And we still have that problem today, don't we?
- But if you want to love like Jesus loves (and I hope you do), **love people who are in need** — when you do, it's like you're doing it for Jesus Himself.

### DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
  - ★ **Talk about a time someone loved you when you were in need.**
  - **Who is someone whose needs you can meet this week? What will you do about it?**