



DBR

WITH THE EDGE

January 23 – Matthew 16

Reread Matthew 16:15-17

Jesus asks a very hard but important question to his disciples. First, Jesus asks them what other people think about him and who he is. Then he addresses them personally. He asks who they think he is. Peter speaks up and says that Jesus is the Christ or the Messiah (the Savior) and that he is God's own son. Jesus tells him that God revealed this to Peter.

Why do you think it is difficult for people to see that Jesus is the Son of God? Why do YOU think that Jesus is the Son of God?

January 24 – Matthew 17

Reread Matthew 17:20

Jesus shows us that faith is powerful. The only reason it is powerful, is because the faith placed *in God*, is powerful.

How should your faith and trust be in God? What are some things you ask for on a regular basis from God?

January 25 – Matthew 18:1-20

Reread Matthew 18:7

Throughout the Bible, it is obvious that sin is a big deal to, and that falling to temptation is wrong. But it is easy to forget that causing other people to be tempted is a huge deal to God as well.

In what ways are you tempted to sin?

How can you make sure you are not tempting others to sin?

January 26 – Matthew 18:21-35

Reread Matthew 18:35

Today's reading was a parable told by Jesus about our need to forgive others. The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant ends with a threat. God requires that forgiven people forgive each other.

When is it hard to forgive?

Who is it hard for you to forgive?

January 27 – Matthew 19:1-15

Reread Matthew 19:14

As Jesus was met by many crowds, he encountered many different people. This time, it was a group of children. Jesus says something about the kind of people that make it to heaven. He says they will be like children. As a child, you depend on your parents to give you what you need to live. God wants his children (those who are saved) to depend on him for everything. He's the boss - the one in charge of their lives.

Do you have trouble trusting God? What is something specific you need to trust him with? (a relationship, a class, etc)

January 28 – Matthew 19:16-30

Reread Matthew 19:29

This young man had trouble giving up everything to follow Christ. He had been given many things so it was difficult for him. Jesus goes on to say that if a person gives up things important to them in order to follow him, they will be rewarded.

What are some things that the Bible clearly says that you need to give up to follow God more closely?

January 29 – Matthew 20:1-16

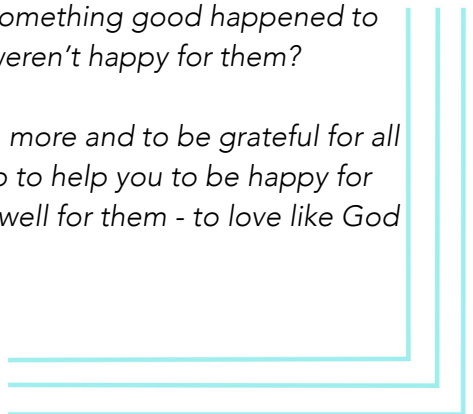
Reread Matthew 20:15-16

Jesus tells a story of workers in a vineyard. Some work the full day and others only work part of the day, but at the end, they all get the same pay. When it comes to the kingdom of God, many people will serve God faithfully for many years and go to heaven, while others may be Christians for a short time before they die and go to heaven. The point is, God's gracious gift of salvation is up to God to give, when he wants to give it. The workers who received the money with grumbling, didn't have the right attitude.

Who are some people that you should have a better attitude towards?

Has there been a time when something good happened to someone you know and you weren't happy for them?

Ask God to help you trust him more and to be grateful for all he has given you. Ask him also to help you to be happy for other people when things go well for them - to love like God loves.



January 30 – Matthew 20:17-34

Reread Matthew 20:26-28

In this passage Jesus is talking about being great in his eyes and in his kingdom. Being great for God is not like being great in the world. A “great person” in the Kingdom of God is a person who serves and loves others.

What ways are you able to serve others?

How can you serve better starting this week?

January 31 – Matthew 21:1-22

Reread Matthew 21:9

As Jesus enters the city, people praise him! Crowds call him the “Son of David.” Over the course of that week, the people turned against him. Jesus wants people to worship him not just with their words, but also with their hearts.

When you sing worship songs, do you think about the words you are singing and really mean them?

Make sure your actions go along with the words you sing!

February 1 – Matthew 21:23-39

Reread Matthew 21:23

When Jesus spoke to the crowds, people wondered where his wisdom came from. When he made big statements about God, many of the leaders of the Jews questioned him. It is important for every person to recognize who Jesus is and where his “authority” (his power) comes from. If you believe that his power comes from God, than you should do your best to obey him.

What are some commandments that make more sense when you remember that Jesus is God?

February 2 – Matthew 22:1-22

Reread Matthew 22:21

The people are asking whether or not they should pay taxes to Caesar, the emperor of Rome who has taken over the people of Israel. Jesus tell them to give the money they owe to him, and to give what they owe God to God.

What are the things we should give to God? (Think about your time, effort, love, etc.)

How do you do this?

February 3 – Matthew 22:23-46

Reread Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus told the Pharisees that the most important commandment was to love God, and to love people. That is the most important for us too!

What are some reasons you should love God?

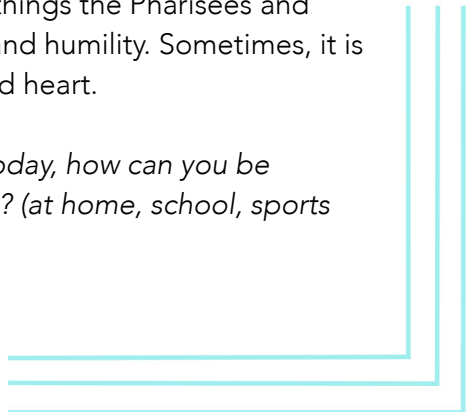
Who are some people that you need to love more by your actions?

February 4 – Matthew 23:1-22

Reread Matthew 23:12

While Jesus talks about the bad things the Pharisees and scribes do, he talks about pride and humility. Sometimes, it is easy to do good things with a bad heart.

When you interact with people today, how can you be humble instead of being prideful? (at home, school, sports teams, etc.)



February 5 – Matthew 23:23-39

Jesus is addressing the scribes and the Pharisees directly with seven “woes” (great sorrows or distress) against them. He is sorrowful because the people continue to disobey his commands.

When do you find yourself disobeying God the most?

What are ways that you could stay as far away from this as possible?

February 6 – Matthew 24:1-22

Reread Matthew 24:9-13

Jesus is telling the disciples of what the end times will look like, and that they will be hated for their faith. Christ calls us to endure through these trials, because the kingdom of heaven is coming back, which is far greater than life on Earth.

Have you ever been made fun of or been given a hard time for believing in Jesus or going to church?

Did you act back in love, or anger?

February 7 – Matthew 24:23-51

Reread Matthew 24:36-51

Jesus is telling us when that we do not know when he is coming back to Earth. We just know is that he is coming soon.

Knowing that he could come back at any moment, how does that make you want to change the way you live?

If Christ came back today, what would you want him to find you doing?

February 8 – Matthew 25:1-30

Reread Matthew 25:30

God has 100% control over your eternal destination (heaven or hell).

How does it make you want to fear God more?

Does it make you want to love God more?

February 9 – Matthew 25:31-46

We are called to wait patiently for Jesus Christ to come back to Earth. Sometimes it is hard to wait for God's justice since there is so much evil and sin in the world.

Is it okay to ask for Christ to return?

(Yes! We want him to come back to rule perfectly and end sin forever!)

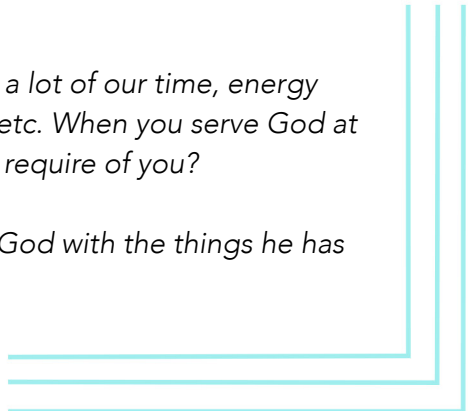
February 10 – Matthew 26:1-19

Reread Matthew 26:10

The woman in this passage poured her very expensive perfume on Jesus. She set an example of giving great honor to Jesus and sacrificing important things to follow and serve him.

Serving God sometimes requires a lot of our time, energy and even sometimes our money etc. When you serve God at church and at home what does it require of you?

How can you be more faithful to God with the things he has given you? (Be specific)



February 11 – Matthew 26:20-54

Reread Matthew 26:39

In this passage Jesus, being a man (as well as God), did not want to suffer this terrible death on the cross, however he said, "not as I will, but as you will."

What situation have you been in where you had to put aside your own desires and instead chose to do something that was pleasing to God?

Where do you find out what is pleasing to God?

If you are honest with yourself, do you read the Bible enough to really know what God is like and what pleases him?

Commit to read DBR EVERY DAY and truly pay attention to his words so that you can train yourself to be wise and to be obedient to his will.

February 12 – Matthew 26:55-75

Reread Matthew 26:69-75

Peter was approached by different people asking if he knew Jesus. All three times, Peter denied knowing him.

Is it hard for you to stand up for Jesus in school, on your sports team, or with your friends?

Where do you find it the hardest to stand firm?

What do you need to do to become stronger in these situations? (choose more godly friends, avoid certain places, invite friends to church etc.)