

Intentional Acts of Kindness

Week 1 | Eyes

■ BOTTOM LINE

Often in our busy lives we overlook the people around us who are in desperate need.

■ GOAL OF THE GROUP

The goal of this week's group is to see who God places in front of us. Together, we ask the question "how can I go through life and miss what's right in front of me?" and challenge ourselves to open our eyes to see those around us.

■ SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:31-40; Matthew 22:36-40

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Share:** Have you ever looked for something that was right in front of you? Share your experience with the group.
2. **Read Matthew 25:31-40 and Discuss:** Jesus examines how we treat people around us in need. We are called to help those in need both individually and as a community.
 - a. We did not title this series "Random" Acts of Kindness, because our love for one another shouldn't be random. We titled this series "Intentional" Acts of Kindness because our lives are meant to be lived on purpose and intentionally. Consider the difference between "random" and "intentional" kindness – what thoughts come to mind?
 - b. If we ignore those that suffer hunger, thirst, nakedness, homelessness, sickness, or imprisonment, we ignore those that lack the basic necessities of life. Perhaps we take these necessities for granted. How could we live a life in which we come alongside those that lack these basic necessities?
 - c. What does Jesus mean in verse 40 when He says, "...when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sister, you were doing it to me"?
3. **Read Matthew 22:36-40 and Discuss:** Jesus summarizes the New Testament law and shows us that we are to love God wholeheartedly and love our neighbors as ourselves.
 - a. Human nature leads to self-absorbed pursuits searching for happiness. If God didn't command us to love Him and to love others, do you think we would look beyond ourselves? Why or why not?
 - b. When we love God wholeheartedly and love our neighbors as ourselves, we are obedient to God and can experience real happiness. Can you think of a time when you felt real happiness and knew it was linked to your obedience?
 - c. Can you think of a time when you pursued worldly happiness? Describe how the experience left you feeling.
4. What happens when we overlook the things God wants us to notice? Consider these three scenarios and discuss how you can relate.
 - a. When God places an opportunity in front of us and wants us to act, but we are too busy to notice.
 - b. When God brings a person to mind He wants us to reach out to, but it is out of our comfort zone.
 - c. When God wants us to change something inside, but we are unwilling to focus on it.
5. When we spend our busy lives overlooking things that are important to God and our faith, we run the risk of hurting our growth, missing out on blessings, and experiencing the true joy that is reserved for us in this life. Read John 13:35, 1 John 3:17, and 1 John 4:19. What is our motivation to love others?

"Preach the gospel always;
when necessary use words."
- St. Francis of Assisi



TRY THIS

Our Mission: To see every[one] transformed and mobilized by Jesus

- "to see" = can mean "to observe or witness" which is the goal
- "to see" = can also mean to "see to it" – own the responsibility of a task
- "to see" = can also mean "to open our eyes" and "see" EVERY [ONE] who needs God

There is only one way to truly start seeing people the way God does. Pray these things...

1. God help me "to see" those who others may overlook (open our eyes)
2. God help me "to see" how I can be a blessing today to "the least of these" (owning responsibility)