

SATURDAY & SUNDAY Discipleship Guide

Message Title: "Open Heart"

Series: "Family Matters" | Week of June 4-10, 2017

Main Thought:

God sovereignly puts us into families and guides us into places that will mold us for our mission and prepare us for our purpose. He will redeem even the most difficult experiences. This happens best when there is unity built on acceptance, trust, and connection. Studies have proven that the greatest life changes occur in small family-like settings. Our hearts grow the most when we open it to others, share generously, and receive humbly.

Main Passages:

"God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land." (Psalm 68:6)

"And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him..." (Acts 17:26-27 ESV)

"We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, 'The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.'...⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another...⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:1-3, 5-7 ESV)

Reflection:

- What especially stands out to you from the main thought and Bible passages above?

Application:

- When have you reached out to receive someone on the down and out before? What happened, what did you learn, and what was the impact on their heart and your own?
- What is one take away from today's discussion that you can most likely

act on?

Group Prayer:

- Pray for God to show you, individually and as a group, how the hurting can be embraced and encouraged.
- Pray for God to touch a specific friend or loved one to respond to your invitation to group or church. Pray that they would come to know Christ personally.