



LifeGroup Discussion Guide

The Character of God

Think of your closest friend: what is your favorite part of their character?

READ: 1 Corinthians 15:33

What do you think is the danger of surrounding yourself with bad character?

Share a story of how your actions, behavior, values, or character seem to be inherited from your parents (*for better or for worse*)? In our New Testament reading we see Jesus speaking about a distinctly Christian aspect of justice - **READ: Matthew 5:43-48**

- What part of this text jumps out to you the most? Why?
- What does God's provision for "rain" for the righteous AND the unrighteous teach us about His character?
- What is the ethic for "*justice*" that Jesus commands his followers in this passage?
- What is the impact of Jesus' identification of God as "*Father*" in **verse 48**?
- Share some examples of how you are aiming to pass on good characteristics to your children / grandchildren?

READ: Exodus 34:4-7 - Remind each other of the context for these 2nd copies of the stone tablets. How is Moses' character contrasted with Yahweh's?

Of the 5 main characteristics mentioned (*compassionate, gracious, patience, love, and faithfulness*), which is your favorite one? Explain why?

- Which do you think is the hardest for us to emulate?

The 5th characteristic of "*faithfulness*" gets an expanded explanation in **verse 7**.

- How are we to understand God's faithfulness in regard to His justice?
- Is God's faithfulness inline with justice?

READ: 1 John 1:8-9 - How does our confession of sin relate to God's character qualities of faithfulness and justice? If you are not punished for your sins, explain how God can still be "*just*"?

READ: Romans 5:6-11 - What does this passage teach you about God's character?

Look back once more to **Matthew 5:43-48**. How are you seeking to live like your Heavenly Father?