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**WEEK 3** | **THE LIFE WORTH FIGHTING FOR**

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to walk in your peace all whilst standing up for those who can't stand up for themselves, to speak up for the voiceless, and to bring strength to those who are weak. We know that life can only be found in you, so help us to fight for it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## WARM UP (OPTIONAL)

Name someone you admire who stood up for those who couldn't stand up for themselves. Why do you admire them?

## NOTES

## WORD

<sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

[MATTHEW 25:34-46](#)

**Jesus uses this passage to awaken those in his audience who don't understand that once you have experienced the love of God, you have to pour it out on others. For the religious leaders, they are seen as not being willing to "get their hands dirty" in loving the marginalised, the poor, or the sick.**

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your ability to welcome strangers? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. Have you ever had anyone stand up for you? If so, what happened?

3. In the analogy that Jesus gives, do you see yourself more as one of the ones who was generous, one of the ones who was not generous, or one of the ones who has been helped?
4. Have you experienced the love of God like this? Tell us more as to why or why not, and if not, would you like to? If you have experienced the love of God, tell us about that, too.
5. If you are a follower of Jesus, have you been able to see God's love play out in feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, or visiting those in prisons? Tell us about what it has been like if you have, or if you haven't, perhaps discuss why this hasn't happened yet.
6. Do you know anyone who might be considered "the least of these"? How might you be able to help them out of their predicament by bringing the love of Jesus into their lives?

## PRAYER LIST