

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of November 6, 2016

Matthew 5:29-30

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

Common English Bible (CEB)

²⁹ *And if your right eye causes you to fall into sin, tear it out and throw it away. It's better that you lose a part of your body than that your whole body be thrown into hell.* ³⁰ *And if your right hand causes you to fall into sin, chop it off and throw it away. It's better that you lose a part of your body than that your whole body go into hell.*

Connection Questions:

1. Describe your experience with the game "Sorry."
2. In the game "Sorry," one of the strategies in winning is to negate the progress of others. The Apostle Paul says we all sin. Discuss how our problem with sin is similar to how the game of "Sorry" is played. In God's kingdom we encourage others to move forward in a way that not only brings life to them but to us as well. Discuss what you think this means.

3. Jesus says in our text that if you sin you should pluck your eye out or cut your hand off. What do you think he is saying?

4. The Law of Moses was designed to show Israel how to live together in a world of human authority. Jesus thought the law was helpful, but he was interested in discussing what it meant to live in a world of divine authority, the kingdom of God. How do these two approaches differ?

5. Jesus forms a pattern that goes beyond the letter of the law to the spirit of the law. What's the difference?

6. How is being vulnerable by saying "I'm sorry" or "I forgive you" an important element in how people relate to one another in God's new kingdom?

7. Does being vulnerable by saying "I'm sorry" necessarily mean an admission that you are wrong in a given situation? How could this sentiment be helpful even if you feel you have not done something wrong in a specific situation?

8. Someone once asked Jesus how often you should forgive someone and he said seventy times seven. What do you think he meant?