

**EYE EXAM**  
Luke 6:27-42

**INTENTION**

*Group members come to understand how they should behave as members of the Kingdom of God when they are being mistreated by believers and unbelievers alike. Using the example of how our Heavenly Father treats us, they will begin to bring their own responses in line with the attitudes and responses of God.*

**INTRODUCTION**

*This section will introduce the topic as group members participate in a "get to know you" activity that is challenging to accomplish.*

1. Tell the group that one of our group goals is to get to know each other better. We are about to participate in a challenging "get to know you" activity.
2. Let group members know that they will be playing the well known game "twenty questions" with a little twist. The rules are as follows:
  - a. One person is "it." He or she must think of a place or thing that was or is significant to him or her in the past or present.
  - b. The other group members may ask up to 19 questions to try to narrow down what the thing is: for example: Is it a physical object?
    - i. The final question should be a guess as to what the particular thing is, i.e. "Is it your diary?"
    - ii. Once that question is asked, the game is over.
  - c. Now allow the person who was "it" to share what the object was (if it was not guessed correctly) and the significance of the item they choose.
  - d. Play the game as often as you want to by allowing other people to be "it" and have the group begin the 20 questions again.
3. Introduce the next section by letting the group know that we are going to move on to another challenging activity. The challenge will be to actually do what Jesus instructs his followers to do.

**INVESTIGATION**

*This section allows group members to examine today's Scripture passage as they begin to discover Jesus' criteria for success.*

1. Let the group know that Jesus challenged his followers to live lives that went above and beyond what the average person would normally do.
2. Before looking at the Scripture share the attached excerpt (Attachment 1) from the book "Fusion" by Nelson Searcy.
3. Explain that because the employees work for the Ritz-Carlton they know that they will be held to a higher standard. Everything they say or do while they are on the job will be seen as a reflection of their employer. As a volunteer reads the following excerpt from Luke 6, have the group reflect on how the Ritz-Carlton analogy compares to what Jesus says should be true of his followers.
4. Ask a volunteer to read Luke 6:32-36.
5. Encourage group members to respond to the following questions:
  - a. In what ways are we like the hotel employees?
  - b. In which case are the stakes higher—for us or the hotel employees? Why?
6. Let group members know that Ritz-Carlton's motto is: "We are ladies and gentlemen serving ladies and gentlemen."

7. Then re-read Luke 6:36 and ask:
  - a. What does this verse tell us about our DNA?
  - b. What are some possible mottos we could suggest for those who are followers of Jesus?

## INTERACTION

*This section gets group members involved in dissecting the specific instructions Jesus gives his followers and allows them to begin to consider what it might require to actually obey His directives.*

1. Explain that Jesus gave two sets of instructions to his audience in this Scripture passage: The first instructions involved the **actions** his followers were to demonstrate when they were being treated unfairly. The second set of instructions involved the mental **attitudes** his listeners needed to adopt to accurately reflect their Heavenly Father's response.
2. Choose a volunteer to read the first passage about *actions* found in Luke 6:27-31.
3. Now ask specifically,
  - a. Who were the people the Jews considered enemies at that time? (The Romans)
  - b. How do you think they felt about being subjugated to the Romans? Why?
  - c. What things did Jesus tell his followers to do?
  - d. How reasonable would Jesus demands have seemed? Explain
4. Now have group members generate modern day scenarios that would be parallel experiences we might have in our everyday lives?
  - a. Allow group members to share some real life experiences where they or other people they know have been forced to put up with unfair treatment.
  - b. If you were to respond to these circumstances in the same spirit as Jesus expected those early followers to respond, what would you do?
5. Choose another volunteer to read the second passage about the proper *attitude* found in Luke 6:37-38.
6. Ask the group to discuss what Jesus was trying to say about the attitudes his followers needed to have toward people that treat them unfairly, especially for being his followers.
7. Have the group discuss which they believe is harder, responding with the proper outward actions or with the proper inward attitudes.

## IMPLICATION

*This section provides an opportunity for group members to really internalize what it means to understand and activate the heart of their Heavenly Father as they try to live it out in daily lives.*

1. Tell the group that you are going to wrap up this discussion by reading one final section of Scripture.
2. Read the Luke 6:39-40.
3. Tell the group that: If we fail to understand the unconditional love and unmerited mercy that comes from the heart of our Heavenly Father we will never be able to truly reflect his heart before a watching world.
  - a. If the blind man is the follower of Jesus who does not really understand the love of his Heavenly Father, who do you think the blind people he is trying to lead represent? (unbelievers)
  - b. Who do you think the teacher represents? (Jesus/God)

4. Allow group members to share any new insights or action they would like to take in response to what Jesus taught his followers in this passage.

Attachment 1

The first time we visited the Ritz-Carlton, I was amazed. As soon as I pulled into their circular driveway, a bellman ran over, opened my door and said to his colleague, "The gentleman from North Carolina has arrived!"

I didn't know what to concentrate on first—the fact that he had been astute enough to notice my license plate or the fact that he had just called me a gentleman. That was new! Then he rushed to the other side of the car and politely escorted Kelley out of her seat as he asked me, "Whom are we welcoming to the Ritz-Carlton?"

After glancing over my shoulder to make sure he was still talking to me, I stuttered my name. Again, the bellman immediately relayed the information to his partner, "Mr. and Mrs. Searcy have arrived." He then ushered us inside to check in. Later that evening, we happened to run into the same bellman while on our way to dinner. Without hesitation, he looked me in the eye and said, "Have a good night, Mr. Searcy." Impressive.

Such stellar guest interaction does not happen by default. Ritz-Carlton employees are trained on the importance of creating a welcoming atmosphere for each and every person who chooses to walk through their door. They are taught to greet you, know your name by the second time they see you and not let you leave without a sincere thank-you and goodbye. With a strong system in place to clear the path toward effectiveness, the Ritz-Carlton is able to consistently treat their guests well. The staff is empowered to represent their organization with the intrinsic pride it deserves, and they see the results in an unusually high repeat-guest rate.

Searcy, Nelson: Fusion , Gospel Light, Ventura, CA, 2007, pp. 41-42