

# HOW TREAT PEOPLE



## Week One: Love Wins – Study Guide

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Everyone is kind to someone. Everyone cares about someone. Everyone responds to kindness from someone; it's normal. There's nothing impressive about being loving and respectful toward someone who has been loving and respectful to you. It's right side up. However, Jesus taught about an upside down people who respond differently. We have already received kindness, care, love, and respect in abundant measure. Since we have received so much love, we can love others regardless of how they treat us.

### Where Am I Today?

- 1) When you think of a difficult person, who comes to mind the quickest? (You may not want to mention them by name if they're in your Life Group.)

### Into the Bible

- 2) "Blessed" is a word many of us use in everyday conversation and on social media. We talk about how blessed we are to get the new promotion, new car, or positive diagnosis. While those are all certainly reasons to celebrate, they're the opposite of Jesus' reasons for people being blessed. Read **Luke 6:20-26** to see Jesus' upside down qualifications of a blessed life. How does He define a blessed life? How is that different from the way we view it? How can His list possibly be accurate?



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- 3) Jesus follows his upside down view of blessings with upside down responses to people. No matter how harshly people treat us, we are to respond with love. Read **Luke 6:27-36** to see the specifics. How is this different from how we naturally act? Notice how Jesus even addresses our motives. How can our motives betray our behaviors? How is it possible to be loving and generous with the right motives?

#### How Does This Apply?

- 4) In all of our workplaces, there are minimum standards on ethics and excellence. Everyone follows them (or at least makes it look as if they do). In other words, “even sinners” follow the minimum standards. What are some of the minimum standards of ethics and excellence at your workplace? How can you exceed them for the purpose of showing people that you live according to Jesus’ upside down ethic?
- 5) Who do you have a hard time forgiving? Almost all of us have that person ... or several people. It might even be someone who is no longer alive. Maybe it’s someone you forgave, but they hurt you again, or the memories keep coming back and you have to keep forgiving them. What are some steps you need to make toward forgiveness? What from this passage can you take comfort in to help you?



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### Continue Learning on Your Own

- 6) Luke 6:17-49 is called The Sermon on the Plain. That name comes from chapter 6 verse 17a where Luke said, “and he came down with them and stood on a level place.” This section of Luke closely mirrors portions of Matthew 5-7 which is known as The Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon on the Mount is clearly longer, but they are otherwise similar. Some of the differences are in the Beatitudes. Matthew lists nine blessings in 5:2-12 and doesn’t mention any woes. Luke 6:20-26 mentions four blessings and four woes. Some of the blessings are slightly different. This could be because Jesus or Luke summarized them in different ways, or it could be that Jesus taught the same basic content at different times and different places.

As for the name of the sermons themselves, there are a couple different explanations. “Level place” in Luke 6:17 is translated from the word *pedinou*, which could refer to a plateau portion of a mountain or to an entirely different level place. In other words, these could be different accounts of the same sermon, or they could be entirely different sermons with different content. It’s also possible that one or both accounts include content from more than one sermon. As an itinerant preacher, Jesus would have likely repeated content regularly to different crowds. It is very unlikely that either account is an exhaustive account of Jesus’ teaching on that day. What are some other similarities and differences?

