

LUKE 9:51-56

13 FEBRUARY 2022

ICE BREAKER: Describe a hard lesson you've learned in life.

GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verses 51-53) **Jews** and **Samaritans hated** one another. When the Northern Kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians in the 8th century BC, the Assyrians exiled many of the Jews and replaced them with Gentiles. The Jews and Gentiles intermarried and produced the people called Samaritans. Therefore, Jews despised Samaritans because they were of mixed Jewish blood and because they had compromised their Jewish faith, adopting pagan religious practices.

Similarly, Samaritans **rejected** Jews for claiming the Jerusalem temple was God's temple. Samaritans believed the true temple of God was their very own located on Mount Gerizim. Therefore, Samaritans often **heckled** Jews and **refused them** housing when Jews traveled through Samaria to Jerusalem.

1. Describe a time when **someone rejected or slandered you.**

(Read verses 52-54) In their passion and zeal to defend Jesus' honor in the face of the Samaritans' rejection, James and John became **furious**. They demand **divine punishment** for the Samaritans' embarrassing **rejection** of Jesus. "They asked, 'Lord, do you want us to call **fire down from heaven** to destroy them?'"

Like James and John, many use God's name to **rationalize** revenge and getting back at those who reject or hurt us. Many of us use God's name to rationalize our own selfish or destructive actions.

2. How have you seen **people or religions use God's name to rationalize their own desires or goals?**

(Read verses 54-55) When James and John, two of his **closest friends**, sought to **use Jesus** to exact revenge upon their enemies, notice Jesus' response. He **rebuked** them. The Greek word here for rebuke means to **point out** another's **wrong** in an **honorable** way even though doing so may cause the other person **pain**.

Jesus' rebuke of his closest friends, James and John, reminds us of this. Christians should **rebuke** each other **in love** when we sin or use God's name to rationalize our own selfish desires. As Jesus Himself stated, "Those whom I **love** I **rebuke** and discipline. (Rev. 3:19)"

3. Why must **Christians** learn to **rebuke in love** and **receive rebuke** from each other?

(Read verses 54-56) Notice, Jesus **did rebuke** His closest disciples, but He **did not rebuke** those in the Samaritan villages who rejected Him. After Jesus' resurrection from the dead, the Lord sent Philip back to Samaria to preach His Gospel. The result? Samaria experienced a great revival where many were healed and many believed and were baptized (Acts 8).

Jesus teaches us there is a **good time** to rebuke in love and a **bad time** to rebuke. **Knowing the difference** is **the key** to **winning** another person's **heart** and **turning them** from their sin.

4. How do you know **when** versus **when not** to **rebuke** someone **in love?**

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)
