

**Small Group Bible Study Guide: Where You Are**  
**August 10, 2025**  
**Bible Reading**

**Announcements:**

- New App: Download *Church Center App!*
- Men's Grill: 6:30 PM Friday, August 15
- Women's Fellowship: Saturday, August 16
- Marriage Conference: September 26 & 27

**Matthew 22:36-39 (ESV)**

**John 8:3-11 (ESV)**

**Observation Questions**

1. According to Matthew 22, what is the sequence Jesus gives for the greatest commandments? Why is the order important?
2. In the story of the woman caught in adultery (John 8), how did Jesus respond differently than the accusers? What did he say to the woman?
3. What is the "kink in the hose" analogy? What does this represent in our spiritual lives?

**Interpretation Questions**

1. The command to "love your neighbor as yourself" assumes we are receiving God's grace. How does being stuck in shame or negative self-talk affect our ability to love others?
2. Why are we sometimes harder on ourselves than even Jesus is?
3. When have you been at such a low point that you didn't feel like you could go on? Have you ever personally been at a point so low that you thought of ending your life? How does the gospel speak to those who are at their lowest? (*1/3 of Americans have thought of taking their life in the last 12 months*).
4. Discuss the difference between being kind to yourself, and following the world's advice to just "love yourself".
5. Sometimes the people who are hardest to love are carrying significant pain and brokenness. How does this perspective change the way we view and interact with difficult people?

## Application Questions

1. Think about the “kink in the hose” analogy. Are there any unresolved shame, guilt, or negative soundtracks in your mind that might be blocking the flow of God’s love through you? What is one step you can take this week to address or replace a negative soundtrack?
2. Jesus offered grace instead of condemnation to the woman caught in adultery. Is there an area in your life where you are condemning yourself or holding onto guilt? What would it look like to “heap” that onto Jesus and receive His grace?
3. “If we are harsh, condemning, or unforgiving toward ourselves, it becomes nearly impossible to extend genuine love and grace to others.” How do you typically speak to yourself when you make a mistake? What is one way you can be kinder to yourself this week?
4. Think of a difficult person in your life. How might their actions be a reflection of their own pain or brokenness rather than a personal attack on you? What is one practical way you can move toward them with empathy and grace this week?

## Closing Prayer Suggestion:

*Invite the group to spend a few moments in silent reflection, asking God to reveal any “kinks in the hose” and to help them receive His grace more fully, so they can love others—especially the difficult people in their lives—with the love of Jesus.*

## Consider listening to this song:

Andrew Peterson’s song: ***Be Kind To Yourself***