



IMMANUEL CHURCH

Discussion Guide: What Goes Around Comes Around
May 14, 2017

Opening Questions:

- Are you a “people should get what they deserve” kind of person? Have you ever allowed that thinking to give you permission to treat someone the way they treated you?
- Do you ever feel trapped in this cycle of what goes around comes around? Do you think you are ever in protection mode? Keeping yourself from getting walked on? How so?

Looking at Scripture:

- Read **Matthew 5:38-41...** Is there any part of you that struggles hearing what Jesus says here? Is it difficult to think about living in such an unfair way? Why do we have such a hard time breaking the law of retaliation?
- Read **Romans 12:17-21...** Why should we leave vengeance up to God? What’s the difference between the way he retaliates and the way we do?
- Do you agree with the idea that your response is all you can control in a given situation? Why does that feel so frustrating and...unfair? Why is it so important that we are willing to give more than get even?
- Have you ever thought about being kind to the unkind as a way of shaming them? Is that any better than just throwing back what they gave you? Why or why not? How does Paul actually want us to understand feeding our enemy? What’s it ultimately about?

Application Questions:

- This week’s bottom line was **CHANGE WHAT GOES AROUND BY MAKING SURE WHAT COMES AROUND ISN’T WHAT WENT AROUND.** What are some practical ways you can do this in your week ahead? How do you plan to break the cycles of perpetual evil in your life?
- What’s one area you need to work on this the most in? Where are you just getting even? Which relationships would benefit most from changing what goes around?
- Have you ever thought about yourself as a component in God’s strategy for making the world a better place? How does that change the way you see your marriage? Your job? Your neighborhood? How does that affect your willingness to be a change agent by giving more than getting even?

End your time together praying for one another, asking God give each group member strength to do something so countercultural. Ask him to help you let go of the rights we’re so often protecting. And ask him to give you patience as you practice the unnatural. Ask him to help you literally change the atmosphere you find yourself in by changing what goes around.