July 29, 2020

Scripture and Reflection Questions

**Relationships in the Sermon on the Mount**

Matthew 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Matthew 6:14-15

“If you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Matthew 7:1-2

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

1. What do these passages above say about the importance of building up relationships with other people, and the ways in which we should do it? How is this similar/dissimilar to what we are seeing around our world today?
2. How do you feel about campfires? Have you experienced deeper, more intimate conversation with family and friends around a campfire? Why do you think that happens?
3. If you sat around the campfire with Jesus, what would you want to say to Him? What do you think He would say to you?
4. Why do you think God designed us to need intimate relationships with other people? What are some ways you grow closer to others?