

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary, to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

An Eye for an Eye and a Tooth for a Tooth – Oct. 26, 2025

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

3 Points

- **An Important Hermeneutical Principle**
- **The True Meaning of “An Eye for an Eye and a Tooth for a Tooth.”**
- **The Scribes & Pharisees’ Misuse of the Phrase.**

Understanding Hermeneutics: The sermon introduces the concept of hermeneutics as the science and art of interpreting Scripture. Why is it important to consider context and meaning when interpreting Bible passages?

Can you share an example from your own experience where misunderstanding the context of a verse led to confusion?

Misquoting Scripture: The sermon highlights how the Scribes and Pharisees quoted Scripture accurately but missed its meaning. Have you ever heard a Bible verse quoted out of context in today’s culture?

How can we ensure we’re interpreting and applying Scripture correctly, as encouraged by 2 Timothy 2:15?

The Meaning of “An Eye for an Eye”: The sermon explains that “an eye for an eye” was a civil law for Israel’s judges to ensure fair punishment, not a call for personal vengeance. How does this understanding challenge common misconceptions about this phrase?

Why is it significant that this principle was meant for governing authorities, not individuals?

Scribes and Pharisees’ Misuse: The sermon notes that the Scribes and Pharisees misused “an eye for an eye” to justify personal vengeance. How can we guard against using Scripture to justify our own desires or actions?

What are some modern examples where biblical teachings might be twisted to support personal agendas?

Jesus' Teaching vs. Misinterpretation: Jesus clarifies that He is not abolishing the Old Testament law but fulfilling it (Matthew 5:17). How does this affect the way we view the relationship between the Old and New Testaments?

Why is it important to see Jesus as teaching the correct interpretation of the law, not reinterpreting it?

Application to Justice: The sermon emphasizes that administering justice is the role of governing authorities, not individuals. How does this perspective influence the way we respond to personal wrongs or injustices in our lives?

Can you think of a situation where relying on authorities rather than taking personal action would reflect this principle?

Looking Ahead to Next Week: The sermon sets up Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:39-42 about not resisting evil and responding generously to others. What initial thoughts or questions do you have about these verses?

How might they challenge our natural instincts when faced with wrongdoings?

Personal Reflection: The sermon uses examples like Matthew 7:1 ("Judge not") and Philippians 4:13 ("I can do all things") to show how verses can be misquoted. Have you ever misapplied a verse in your own life?

How can this sermon's hermeneutical principle— "the meaning of Scripture is the Scripture"— help you approach Bible study more carefully?

Final Prayer

- *O you who have appointed each one his place and work in life, we desire to serve you in all that we do. Help us to fulfill every duty which you lay upon us, and to stand in every hour of temptation. In our times of darkness and in the light that comes after darkness, keep us patient, and amid all the changes of the world preserve in us a cheerful spirit. Enable us to fight the good fight of faith, and to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. - John Hunter (1848-1917)*

Announcements:

OCC Collection Week

11/17 - 11/24 | Worship Center Foyer

OCC Collection Week is coming up, so it's time to start packing a special box for a boy or girl somewhere around the world. On Sundays, you can pick up a box in the back of the Worship Center on the south side. For info on drop-off times, visit

www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/drop-off-locations

Red Kettle Kickoff

11/8 | 11am | Chapel

Join us for a fundraising luncheon for The Salvation Army to kick off the holiday season! The Salvation Army will provide updates and will share how its ministry is serving families in Tehachapi. Food is provided. Tickets can be purchased by going to the church calendar and clicking the link in the event description.

CCW Gifts

We are gearing up to love on our Cross Cultural Workers for Christmas. Please plan to pick up gift ideas for our CCWs on Sunday, Nov. 2nd in the Chapel! Then bring gifts back on November 9th and 16th.