

**JESUS &  
JUSTICE**

**CALLING ALL  
SUPERHEROES!**

**3 SIMPLE RULES  
(TO CHANGE THE WORLD)**

**LOVE GOD**

**GAP**  
gracepoint

## DEAR GAP KIDS

July and August at Gracepoint are traditionally “Justice Month”! In this time, we focus on the importance of social justice as an expression of holiness, or in other words, we focus on how as Jesus followers we need to follow the example of Jesus in the way he lived, ministered and treated people: fairly, kindly, caringly, with mercy, grace and truth and working for all people, never mind who they were, so that all people could be included, treated justly and cared for in and by the family of believers, that we nowadays call ‘The Church’.

### - THE GAP TEAM

## SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

Watch today's lesson on YouTube (GAP Gracepoint Online)

### **JOHN WESLEY SAID: "LOVE GOD!"**

As part of our **3 simple rules**, we need to love God! But how do we do this? Yes part of loving God is singing worship songs, reading our Bibles and praying, but what does **loving God** have to do **with Justice**? How does loving God help us follow Jesus' Justice superhero example in our own lives?

One more way we haven't looked at loving God yet, is by carefully looking after everything that God has given to us... This is called **Stewardship**.

#### Stewardship as a tool to loving God:

John Wesley explained that we should carefully steward or care for everything we are have. This includes: our brains, relationships, emotions, bodies, abilities, gifts and talents, knowledge and education, possessions and even our influence. **We love God when we are good stewards and we are also loving God's people**

**CALLING ALL  
SUPERHEROES!**



# READ:

## **3 SIMPLE RULES: #3 LOVE GOD**

If you thought about the word “ordinance”, you would probably say it's pretty strange, and you are right. It is a strange word to us, but for John Wesley, ordinances were those practices that helped keep the relationship between God and humans alive and growing. Today we say more simply, that the third rule is to Stay in love with God, or to Love God.

John Wesley, summarized Jesus' way and the ten best ways as **3 SIMPLE RULES** for us to follow as Jesus followers. They were:

- 1. DO GOOD**
- 2. DO NO HARM**
- 3. LOVE GOD**

The first two rules are important but without the third they might be impossible to do at all. Loving God is the core of our life as children of God. Without tapping into the power of God we would not be able to Do No Harm and to Do Good.

You connect to God's power when you practice your faith by reading your Bible, going to worship and Sunday School, volunteering in your church, school, or community, and sharing how God is at work in your life with others. When you are grateful and carefully look after and use everything you have from God, you are being a good steward – another form of loving God, doing good and doing no harm!

John Wesley's 3 Simple Rules are a way of living in the world that makes the world better for everyone and everything. The rules are simple, but this way of living is not easy. It takes a lifetime of practice. When we try do good, not to do harm and love God we are encouraging fairness, compassion, sharing and a commitment to the common good. This is what the Great Commandment - loving God and loving neighbor - looks like.

### **JOHN WESLEY FASCINATING FACT:**

John Wesley preached over 40,000 sermons in his lifetime. His brother, Charles wrote over 6500 hymns, many of which we still sing in our churches today. Between the two Wesley brothers we have hundreds of thousands of words that help us learn who God is and how we are to be and act as God's beloved children.



# RESPOND:

## **INVITING GOD'S ACTIVITY**

Loving God, come and live in our hearts this day. Stay with us all day long and save us from mistakes or acting in foolish ways. Teach us today to do no harm and to do good. Help us to be an answer to another's prayer so that we may be one of the signs of hope in the world you love. Amen!

## **SCRIPTURE**

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. - Psalm 16:11

And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age. -Matthew 28:20

## **THINKING AND PRAYING THROUGH THE LESSON**

**REMEMBERING** – Reflect on the lesson. Ask:

- ✓ What is God saying to me through this lesson and some of the points we have spoken about?
- ✓ How can Jesus example help us to love God?
- ✓ How does loving God help us to live lives that are just, fair, compassionate and caring towards others?
- ✓ How does stewardship help us love God, as well as do good and not do harm?

**CONFESSING** – Take time to own mistakes made today or in the past. Ask:

- ✓ When have I not loved God as I should have? Or not loved his people as I should have?
- ✓ How have I not used gifts from God as I should have?
- ✓ What should I have done differently in those situations?
- ✓ How did I my actions make people feel?

**FORGIVING** – Ask for forgiveness and offer it to those who have wronged you. Ask:

- ✓ When have I felt that I have not loved God as I should have?
- ✓ How did it make me or God feel?
- ✓ John Wesley said that we should always try to love God. Do I need to ask forgiveness for God for the times I have not loved Him as I should have?

**THANKSGIVING** – Give thanks for all God has given you today. Ask:

- ✓ What can I be thankful for? (God's presence when we do not love Him as we should, is a good one to pray about today)
- ✓ When have I felt God's presence with me today?
- ✓ What prayers have been answered?
- ✓ What gifts has God given to me? To my family? To my friends?

## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

Think about this:

**What are you doing now to stay in Love with God?**

**What new practice could you begin today?**

**Who in your life can help you work on this?**

