

KIDS MINISTRY

Begin with a parent reading Matthew 25:31-46 aloud to the family.

Explain: Jesus was teaching about something that will happen when He comes back to earth as King. Jesus is letting us know that there will be a time of judgement when He separates the people who know and love Him from the people who decided not to follow Him.

Ask: What two animals did Jesus talk about? (Sheep and goats) Explain that Jesus was giving us a word picture. This is not about animals at all, but about people.

Discuss: First, Jesus talked to the people who know and love him. He explained what they did to show that they belonged to Jesus. Read vs. 35-36 and discuss what the believers did. Did they take care of Jesus in the ways he mentioned? No! Jesus is saying that when we show love for other people by meeting their needs, we are showing our love for Jesus.

Discuss: What happened next to the other people? Read vs. 41-44. This seems confusing too, because these people did not see Jesus hungry or sick or in need. Jesus made it clear that if we do not help other people, it shows we don't follow and obey Him.

Explain: This story reminds us that Jesus planned for His followers to help other people. When we help others, we are showing our love for Jesus.

Discuss: What ways can your family show love for Jesus by helping others?

STUDENT MINISTRY

An important point to remember is 'You did it to me, not for me'. Jesus identifies himself especially with the person in need. Every time we neglect to help a brother or sister in need, we neglect Jesus himself. Let us not forget to reach out to others as we are asked to.

Where are the hungry, the naked, the homeless who would call on me if they could reach me? Or have I so organized my life that the needy never impinge on me? Lord, you have made this the sole criterion of judgment. How will I measure up?

How can we live with a greater awareness that as we serve others, and care for the needy, we are really serving Jesus?

What practical things could our family do to demonstrate a greater concern for the needy on a regular basis?