



WEEK TWO | TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

Have you ever felt like something was expected or asked of you that was or seemed impossible? Honestly, following Jesus to his standard feels like that most of the time. We hear how he was perfect and never sinned, and then we quickly realize we will never do that. It's pretty hard to even feel like we're doing better than not most days.

Do you like a challenge or play it safe? Tell us about it.

When have you been asked or expected to do something that was or seemed impossible?

TALK ABOUT IT

Read Matthew 5:38–42.

Someone commented to Russ this week that “The Sermon on the Mount is controversial not because Jesus said it, but because he meant it.”

Why do you think Jesus’ teaching to turn the other cheek is so hard to apply—especially in our culture?

Describe the battle you go through not to retaliate or get revenge when you or someone you love was hurt or wronged?

Why do you think people (especially men, as mentioned in the message) struggle with the idea of being meek or “turning the other cheek”?

How did Jesus show the difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law? (“You have heard that it was said, but I say...”)

How did Jesus’ actions in his trial and crucifixion diminish his influence in the world (to the worldly-minded)?

How did his actions in his trial and crucifixion increase his influence in the world?

APPLY IT

How do you balance standing up for justice without seeking revenge or retaliation?

Can you think of a way that you can do more or go further than expected this week?

PRAY

Make this time an indispensable part of your group. It can be at the beginning, end, or wherever but don't overlook it. We have plenty to pray about.

- Pray together before you go home.
- Take requests, email them to the group, ask them to pray this week.