

	Voices: Who Are You Listening To? - Relationships
 BIG IDEA	Respond to those who hurt you with love, not revenge.
 ICE BREAKER	Share a time when you wanted to "get even" with someone (sibling, friend, coworker). What happened? Looking back, how do you feel about your response?
 MAIN POINTS	● Don't Resist "In Kind" - Jesus calls us to respond differently than the world does. Three ways: ○ Turn the Other Cheek - A nonviolent response that forces them to treat you as an equal ○ Give Your Coat - Subversive generosity that exposes injustice ○ Go the Second Mile - Taking control of the situation with kindness and servanthood ● Three practical steps to respond different: ○ PRAY for them - Add them to your daily prayer list ○ LISTEN to them - Have a conversation without defending yourself ○ SERVE them - Look for practical ways to help
 DISCUSS	1. The "eye for eye, tooth for tooth" law was actually meant to limit retaliation, not encourage revenge. How does understanding the original intent of this law change your perspective on Jesus' teaching? 2. Jesus' three examples (turn the other cheek, give your coat, go the second mile) were about creative, non-violent resistance—not being passive. Can you think of a modern example where someone stood up for what's right without resorting to the same tactics used against them? 3. Shane emphasized this is NOT about allowing abuse or ignoring injustice. How do we balance Jesus' call to love our enemies with the need to protect ourselves and others from harm? 4. Read Romans 12:21. What does this look like in practical, everyday situations you face? 5. Read Matthew 5:46-47. Who is someone in your life right now that's difficult to love? What's one step you could take this week to pray for, listen to, or serve them? 6. Shane shared the story about how a friend walked away from \$20 million to choose peace over revenge. Have you ever had to make a decision where you gave up being "right" or getting justice for the sake of something more important? What did you learn?
 NEXT STEP	Take a moment in silence. Ask God to bring to mind one person you need to apply this message to—someone who has hurt you, wronged you, or is difficult to love. Commit to one action this week: ● Pray for them by name daily ● Have a conversation where you just listen ● Find a practical way to serve them
 SCRIPTURE	Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Matthew 5:46-47 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



NEXT WEEK
SNEAK PEAK

more than others? Do not even pagans do that?

Join us next week and invite a friend as we continue in the the series Voices: Who are you Listening to?

Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com