

# REFLECTION GUIDE

11.5.23

## INTRO

We have big and exciting things to concern ourselves with as Christ-followers. We are called to give our time and energy toward things that make a difference in the world and leave a legacy of love. Life is too short to be petty!

## THOUGHTS

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## PRAYER

Lord, forgive me for being petty--for overreacting instead of seeking your advice. Forgive me for acting like a child when I don't get my way. Thank you for Christ's example that guides me. Thank you for your patience and kindness. Fill me with your spirit of love, so when people see me, they also see you. Amen.

## DIGGING DEEPER

- Can you recall an example of when someone displayed backwards spirituality--someone who missed the big picture of God's love because of a fixation on something small?
- Matthew 23:23-24 says, "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel." [NIV]
  - How do you respond internally when you read stories like this when Jesus rebuked Pharisees for their backwards behavior?
  - What is an example of how you are tempted to "strain gnats" instead of practicing justice, mercy, or faithfulness?
- Another descriptor of pettiness is *spitefulness*. What factors contribute to this behavior, and what harm does it bring?
- Being petty distracts us from spending our energy thinking and acting in a way that truly makes a difference in our spheres of influence. Brainstorm strategies you can implement when you become irritated or preoccupied with the small things in life. What are things you can do in the moment to re-focus?