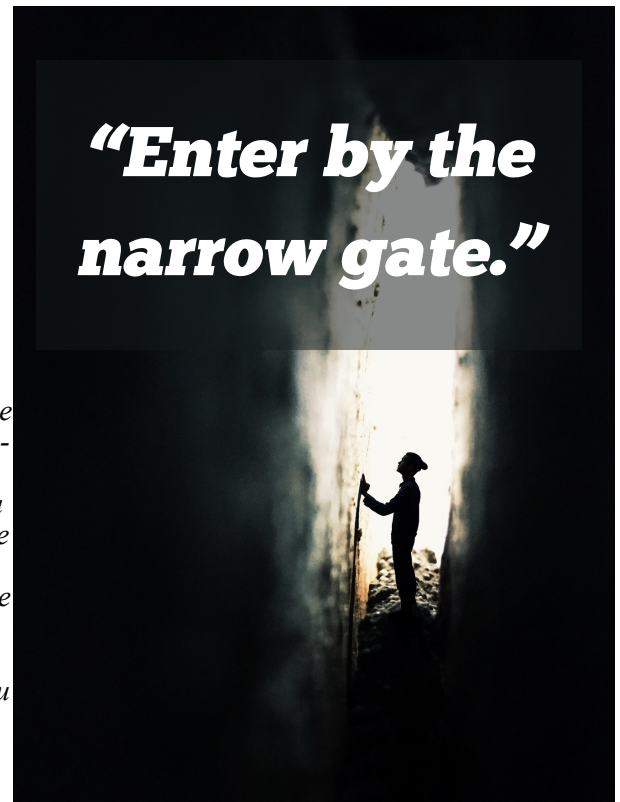


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*"People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway. If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway. What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway. Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway. In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."*

- Mother Teresa



- 1) Read Matthew 7:12-14. How comfortable are you with being called narrow? In what way are Christians to be narrow?
- 2) What is the Golden Rule? How does Jesus amp up the difficulty level of God's law with this summary of the Law and Prophets?
- 3) Reflect on the sins or successes of a couple Old Testament individuals. How did they apply the Golden Rule or fail in keeping it?
- 4) We tend to be kinder towards ourselves than others, especially those who live in our household. How do you see this in your life? What is Jesus calling you to do differently with the Golden Rule?
- 5) What comes to mind knowing that non-believers have some form of the Golden Rule written on their heart (Romans 2:15)? Surprise? Disbelief? Doubt? Are you able to give other people the benefit of the doubt regarding their goodness?
- 6) How does the Golden Rule demand a need for Christ to be the narrow way? How does a narrow Gospel make you more open hearted to sinners?
- 7) Jesus describes the road to life as hard and narrow. How is that encouraging? What is difficult about the journey for you?

Take time to pray for one another.