

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE - WEEK OF 4/14/24

MATTHEW 6: 16-34 ESV

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6: 16-34 ESV

¹⁶ “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴ “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

SERMON RECAP - MAIN POINTS

Live For One

1. Invest in eternity
2. Entrust your control
3. Seek God today

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- What has been one “high” and one “low” from your past week?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- How does the power of materialism affect society today?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- What is taking place in this passage?
- What words or themes stand out to you, and why?
- What are the circumstances of the text?
- Who is involved in the passage and what do you notice about the participants?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- According to Jesus, what is truly important in life?
- Why is it foolish to worry about our physical and material needs?
- How does worry reveal a lack of faith?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- What does this passage teach us about God? What does it teach us about Jesus?
- How does this passage relate to the Gospel?
- How does this text relate to other parts of Scripture?
- How would we summarize the truth of this passage in our own words?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to “seek first the kingdom of God”?
- What do we learn about God in this passage?
- Why should we store up heavenly treasures rather than earthly ones?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- What encouraged you the most from this week's passage? What challenged you the most?
- Does this passage impact your understanding of the Lord? If so, how?
- What is one action you can take this week in obedience to the Lord?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- What earthly treasures are you tempted to store up for yourself?
- What things are you most tempted to worry about?
- How are our ambitions meant to be different from the world?