

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE - WEEK OF 5/5/24

MATTHEW 7: 13-29 ESV

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 7: 13-29 ESV

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

SERMON RECAP - MAIN POINTS

Called to Life

1. Two gates
2. Many imposters
3. Two hearers

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

GENERAL QUESTIONS

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

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?

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

- Share about a time you followed the crowd or a recent trend. What made you want to jump on board?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- How does Jesus explain the difference between the narrow gate and wide gate?
- What does it mean to recognize false prophets by their fruits?
- What kind of person will enter the kingdom of heaven?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- How can it be that some people will accomplish many things but not enter the kingdom of heaven?
- What is the significance of building one's house on the rock?
- What do we learn about Jesus in this passage?

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 are some examples of entering by the wide gate today?
- How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?
- How can you get to know Jesus more?