



JOURNEY GROUPS

FEB 1 LEADER GUIDE

LEADERS NOTES

A few notes for you as a leader as you meet again this week:

- **TOMORROW NIGHT!** - For those that can make it, we are gathering as Journey Group leaders and hosts (not whole groups) on **Monday, February 2 at 6:30pm**. Come and meet our new Pastor, Ryan Brandenburger, who will be overseeing Journey Groups moving forward!
- You are amazing! Thank you for loving people and having a heart for discipleship. Our mission as a church cannot be done without you, so thank you for answering the call and partnering with us!
- If your group hasn't done this yet, try to have people share a 5 minute version of their testimony during group. Just one per week would still allow you to be able to have time for everything else!
- As you think about your group, have you called on anyone to help lead in any way? This could be for the prayer time, leading the discussion, being in charge of hospitality, organizing serving opportunities, etc.
- Another thing that we should consider: is your group at a place where the idea of multiplication needs to be talked and prayed about? (Are there leaders who are ready for their own group? Is your group bigger than what is comfortable? Is your group wanting to be missional?) If so, let's have a conversation!

SHARE - ICE BREAKERS

- If wisdom were a tool, what would you say you've needed most lately—a mirror, a filter, a compass, or a pause button?
- What's a habit or routine you have now that "you from 10 years ago" would be surprised by?

STUDY

Digging Deeper into "The Sermon on the Mount"

1. Take time to flip through chapters 5, 6, and 7 of Matthew. Which section or which teaching has hit you the hardest during our study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount?
2. Has anyone used the wisdom found in the Sermon on the Mount in a real-life situation since we started studying this a few months ago?
3. If someone outside the church asked you, "What is Jesus really after in the Sermon on the Mount?" how would you answer in a sentence or two?
4. Our scripture last week and this week combine to comprise a unified section or theme of Jesus' teaching that calls us to exercise godly wisdom as we deal with people and relationships. **Let's read Matthew 7:1-12.**
5. Verses 1-2 and verse 12 form the bookends of this section of teaching. Read them out loud again and then decide as a group what the core message is for us to take from this section as disciples of Jesus.
6. How do these verses protect us from two opposite dangers: being harsh and judgmental on one hand, and being passive or silent about truth on the other?
7. Now let's go back and walk through the 2nd half of this teaching section, which was the subject of our sermon this week. **Have someone read Matthew 7, verse 6.**
8. From the sermon this week, what are the pearls Jesus is talking about?
(truth about God and the gospel and details about the kingdom of God)
9. And who are the 'dogs' and 'pigs?' *(Godless sinners are not the dogs and pigs! The 'dogs and pigs' are people who have had plenty of opportunity to respond to the gospel, but who not only reject it, but act in opposition to it.) (Luke 23:6-12 is an example you can look up as a group if you like where Jesus remained silent before Herod.)*
10. This is a tricky piece of the sermon to handle. Can you think of any examples for today of someone we shouldn't share the pearls of the gospel with?
11. Why does it take humility and wisdom—not fear or pride—to know when to speak and when to remain silent?

12. We don't hear a lot of testimonies of people who became Christians after someone angrily argued them into belief. Why do we not need to bring verbal sledgehammers with us to do evangelism?
13. How can anger, frustration, or fear subtly distort our witness—even when we believe we are defending truth?
14. We don't have to write off people we love who are completely closed off and opposed to the gospel. While not giving them our pearls until their hearts soften, what can we do as we wait for God to change their heart? In what ways can our lives and relationships “preach” the gospel while we wait for the right moment to speak?
15. **Have someone read Matthew 7:7-11 again.** Why does Jesus, in giving us wisdom for dealing with tough relationships with people, call us to prayer?
16. How does prayer lead us to wisdom, and being wise, with difficult people and in tricky situations?
17. Jesus tells us to 'ask, seek, and knock.' What about those three verbs stick out to you in regards to how we are to pray to our Father?
18. **Have someone reread verses 9-11.** Jesus is reminding us that God is good and He loves answering our prayers by giving us good things. Why do you think Jesus put this reminder in here, right after calling us to 'ask, seek, and knock?'
19. What is the golden rule, aka, verse 12 of Matthew chapter 7?
20. What is a situation in your life right now where you are needing to do a better job of loving someone than you are currently are doing?
21. Does anyone need prayer for wisdom from God on how to handle a tough relationship or situation right now?

PRAYER

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