



Study Group: Leader Guide  
Building Healthy Jesus Followers  
Matthew 12:22-13:43 – May 13<sup>th</sup>-May 19<sup>th</sup>

## CHECK-IN

*An opportunity to show authentic community as we **share the struggles** and **celebrate the victories** we've experienced in the last week.*

## 100 DAY JOURNEY

### Recurring Questions

- As you reflected this week, what have you learned about God? (REFLECT)
- What principles have you seen for healthy Jesus followers? (ENGAGE)
- Have you been able to apply any of these principles this week? (APPLY)
- How has God spoken during your times in prayer? (PRAY)
- Is there anything new that you learned or saw in your reading?
- How has God's Word convicted you this week?
- Which attributes of God did you see in this week's passages? How should it change the way that you pray, think, speak or act?

## STUDY & APPLY

Matthew 12-13

- How should this picture of Jesus' power impact our view of spiritual warfare? (Ch. 12:22-24, 29)
- In what area of your life are you most careless with your words? (Ch. 12:33-37)
- Why would the Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign when they just saw him heal a demon possessed man a few verses before? (12:22)
- In what ways are you tempted to require a sign from God in order to follow and trust Him?
- Some people say that Jesus never claimed to be God. How do we see that countered in this passage? (Ch. 12:39-42)
  - Where else do we see Jesus make statements that indicate He is God?
- How did Jesus' parables both reveal *and* conceal truth?
- What does the story of the seed teach us about failure and success in evangelism?
- Do you ever find yourself like the crowd Jesus describes in Ch. 13:13-15?
  - What could prevent you from spiritually hearing and seeing what God says in His Word?
- Jesus shares four parables about the kingdom of heaven. How do each of them demonstrate a different aspect of His kingdom?

## Leader Notes:

The unforgivable sin – blasphemy against the Spirit (Ch. 12:30-32)

- It is no single action. Blasphemy against the Spirit describes a state of the heart, which is confirmed by the actions of the hands and the words of the mouth (v.33-37). This state of the heart is one that commits “willful unbelief, persistent rebellion and final denial of the Spirit's invitation to repent.”
- Our calling as believers is not to judge whether someone is guilty of the unforgivable sin or not. We trust that God alone knows a person's heart. Our calling is to pray that God will soften even the hardest of hearts, to point others towards Jesus, and challenge others to submit every area of life to Scripture.
  - (supplemented by commentary from John MacArthur and David Platt)

## Reminders to Leaders:

- This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Study Group.
- Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word.
- There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth.
- Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to **facilitate this experience, not to complete** the discussion guide.

## What are Groups?

Groups at Boca Community fall into 1 of 3 categories: Study, Serve or Outreach. Each group consists of 8-16 people who encourage, challenge and care for one another as they walk through life together.

A full list of Groups can be found at [bocacommunity.org/groups](http://bocacommunity.org/groups)