

groups

Study Group: Leader Guide
Building Healthy Jesus Followers
Matthew 13:44-15:20 – May 20th-May 26th

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 13-15

- What have you put aside in order to follow Jesus? (Phil. 3:7-8)
 - Is it possible to *joyfully* lose everything for the kingdom of heaven?
 - Do you joyfully give up things in your life for Christ or is it with an unwilling heart?
- Based on the teaching in the Parable of the Sower, what kinds of "soil" do we see in people's hearts in Chapters 13 & 14?
- What can we learn from John the Baptist about confronting sin? (see Leader Notes)
- Why did John feel like it was necessary to confront Herod in his sin?
 - What do you think gave John strength despite the possibility of danger and loss?
- Jesus was probably exhausted and upset in Ch. 14:13-14. What was his reaction to the crowd even though he was trying to move to an isolated place?
 - When is it most difficult for you to have patience and compassion for others?
- What do you wrongly put your focus on and your trust in rather than Jesus?
- How do we cultivate a response like the disciples as they worship Jesus after the storm?
- Is it wrong to elevate teaching outside of God's Word to the same level of authority?
 - What do we elevate to the authority of Scripture?
- How does something make its way into our heart?
 - Have you ever been surprised or shocked by what came out of your heart?

(this curriculum has been supplemented by Christ-Centered Exposition: Matthew by David Platt)

Leader Notes:

- "It cost [John] his head; but it is better to have a head like John the Baptist and lose it than to have an ordinary head and keep it" -A.T. Robertson
- Parable of the Homeowner – Jesus is the fulfillment of the law. Not the abolishment of it. In that light, the treasure the disciples now have is that they "see the secrets of the old covenant revealed in the new covenant." The disciples, and we, can see the value of both the old and the new. We are not called to embrace the New Testament at the expense of the Old Testament. They work together pointing forward (OT) and pointing backward (NT) to Jesus.
- Clean and Unclean – The Pharisees and teachers of the law were more concerned with obeying the traditions of the elders rather than obeying the commandments of God. This is why Jesus responds so strongly against them. They elevated the opinion of man above the command of God. There are many traditions that are good in the history of the Church, but they never supersede the commandments given to us by God in Scripture.
 - The tradition here is to ceremonially wash one's hands before eating or else you would become ceremonially unclean.
 - The command Jesus points out that the teachers ignored is to honor one's father and mother. See this excerpt from John MacArthur: "The commandments of God were clear (quoted from Ex. 20:12; 21:17; Deut. 5:16); but to circumvent them, some people claimed they could not financially assist their parents because they had dedicated a certain sum of money to God, who was greater than their parents. The rabbis had approved this exception to the commandments of Moses and thus, in effect, nullified God's law (v.6)."

(these notes have been supplemented by The MacArthur Bible Commentary by John MacArthur and Christ-Centered Exposition: Matthew by 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