

# groups

Study Group: Leader Guide  
Building Healthy Jesus Followers  
Matthew 17:22-20:16 – June 3<sup>rd</sup>-June 9<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 17-20

- How do Philippians 2:5-8 and Matthew 20:28 help us understand Jesus' conversation with Peter about the temple tax? (Ch. 17:24-27)
- When is it tempting for you to choose convenience over following Jesus?
  - What does it look like to "cut off your hand, foot or eye"? (see Leader Notes)
- How have you seen God pursue you even when you wandered from Him?
- How do we pursue wandering believers well? (live out Ch. 18:15-17)
  - What is the goal of church discipline (confronting someone in sin)?
- Why do we often think our sins are less severe than others' sins? (Ch. 18:26-30)
- Take a minute and honestly ask yourself where you are harboring unforgiveness, bitterness, revenge or hatred. Would you be willing to share with the group about your situation and allow us to pray for you?
- According to Scripture, when is it permitted to divorce a spouse? (Ch. 19:8-9, 1 Corinth. 7:12-16)
  - What are some Scriptures you can encourage a friend with who is considering divorce?
- What are you willing to leave behind to follow Jesus? (Ch. 18:8-9, 19:21-22, 19:27-29)
  - What is He asking you to leave behind today?
- Do we ever experience similar frustrations that the laborers had over God's immense or seemingly unfair generosity?
- How does God supersede our understanding of what's "fair"? (see Leader Notes)

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

## Leader Notes:

- “This is obviously strong figurative language aimed at making us realize that drastic action is necessary to overcome temptation...He’s (Jesus) emphasizing the seriousness and violence that should characterize our battle with sin. Instead of flirting with sin, we should destroy it. If something is leading us to sin, we should get rid of it...If we’re casual about our own sin...we will lead others to be casual about their sin.” – David Platt
- “Where two or three are gathered” – When we look at the context Jesus is promising that He is present with those who are seeking to obey and live out verses 15-17. He is saying this to encourage those seeking to do the difficult work of loving their brother or sister enough to confront them in their sin. He is not saying that when you’re alone He is not with you.
- The most unfair events in the world are:
  - That Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God, died for us. He deserved nothing but praise and exultation. Instead He received rejection, abandonment, and degradation from Israel who were supposed to be God’s people.
  - That we, wretched sinners, are not given what we deserve - hell, eternal suffering apart from God. Instead we are freely offered forgiveness when we surrender to God and admit that we cannot measure up to His holiness. Confessing that we need Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice who cleanses and imparts righteousness to us so that we can stand before God.

(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](http://bocacommunity.org/groups)