

# groups

Study Group: Leader Guide  
Building Healthy Jesus Followers  
Matthew 22:15-23:39 – June 17<sup>th</sup>-June 23<sup>rd</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 22-23

- How do we live as respectful citizens but give our ultimate allegiance to God? (Romans 13:1-7, Acts 5:29) (see Leader Notes)
  - It's easy to focus on "giving to Caesar what is Caesar's" but what God requires of us is actually much greater than "Caesar". What does it mean to "give God what is God's?" (It means giving our *entire* lives over to Him)
- What were some of the underlying motives of those who questioned Jesus?
  - Have you seen these motives in people today who are skeptical of Jesus?
- In order to actually love the Lord and love our neighbors, we must rightly understand what love is. What is God's definition of love?
  - How has the definition of love been twisted over time?
- Even for unbelievers hypocrisy is despised. Why do you think this is? Define hypocrisy.
- What does it look like to pursue outward cleanliness without inward holiness?
  - Share a story of when your motives didn't match your actions.
- What does it mean to neglect the "more important matters of the law"? (Ch. 23:23-24)
- If purity begins in the heart, then what should our fight against sin look like?
- In what ways do you see yourself in Jesus' condemnation of the Pharisees? Be specific. (see Leader Notes)

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

## Leader Notes:

- "Caesar's image is stamped on the coin; God's image is stamped on the person (Gen 1:26,27). The Christian must "render" obedience to Caesar in Caesar's realm (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17), but 'the things that are God's' do not belong to Caesar and should be given only to God. Christ, thus, acknowledges Caesar's right to assess and collect taxes, and He makes it the duty of Christians to pay them. But He does not suggest (as some suppose) that Caesar had sole or ultimate authority in the social or political realms. Ultimately, all things are God's (Rom. 11:36; 2 Cor. 5:18; Rev. 4:11) - including the realm in which Caesar or any other earthly ruler exercises authority." -John MacArthur
- It's easy to think these woes and condemnation have no bearing on us and are only for those far from Christ. But as we dig deeper into what Jesus says, we come to a frightening conclusion. David Platt describes it well:
  - "We are they. We too have hearts that would murder the Messiah, and to think anything different is to flatter ourselves in the same way these scribes and Pharisees did... We have all rebelled against God, turning from Him and from His Word. This is the same God who has been supremely revealed in His Son One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, and we have rejected Him outright. Therefore no matter how sincere we are, no matter how hard we try, no matter what we do, we have hearts that warrant the wrath and condemnation of God." -David Platt
  - The only way to not receive that judgment is to admit that we cannot measure up on our own, repent of our sins before God, and accept Jesus' forgiveness offered in His death and resurrection.

(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)