

# groups

Study Group: Leader Guide  
Building Healthy Jesus Followers  
Matthew 26:69-28:20 – July 8<sup>th</sup>-July 14<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

- 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 26-28

- When you fall into sin, how do you respond?
  - Do you respond like Peter? Like Judas? Like John? Or like the Pharisees?
- What act shocks you the most in chapters 26-28?
- What does it look like to follow Jesus' example as He faces evil in these chapters?
  - Matthew 6:43-48, Romans 12:21, James 1:2-4, Luke 6:27-36
- Contemplate Jesus' sufferings for a minute: circle one or two that stand out to you, pray to God as you read, ask whether or not you are willing to suffer for Him.
  - *How should Jesus' sufferings change our hearts?*
- What are some Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled through Jesus' death on the cross?
- Discuss how the following attributes of God are displayed in the cross: sovereignty, righteousness, wrath, and love.
- How does the cross rule out the possibility of a works-based righteousness? (see Leader Notes)
- What is the difference between intellectually believing that Jesus is the Son of God and surrendering your life over to Jesus as your Lord? (see Leader Notes)
- How should the resurrection inform your entire reading of the Gospel of Matthew?
- How can we show that it is unlikely the disciples fabricated Jesus' resurrection? (see Leader Notes)
- What is the result of aiming for converts but not following up with teaching Christ's commands?
- Explain the following statement: The Great Commission is not so much a call to "come and see" but rather to "go and tell".

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

## Leader Notes:

- A works-based righteousness wouldn't need the cross because the debt would have already been paid for. Jesus wouldn't come and die for a debt that we didn't owe. We have already seen that everyone is under the same judgement: guilty of sin and rebellion against God (Romans 3:9-12, 23). Nobody who is guilty of sin and rebellion can pay for their own debt, which is to receive the fullness of sin – death (James 1:15). Only a pure sacrifice can make the unclean, clean. That sacrifice, as we heard a couple weeks ago from Robey Barnes, is Jesus. He pays the debt that none of us can.
- Repentance is the key. One can believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that the Bible is God's Word, that Jesus is the only way to be saved, that He died and rose again and yet still live in rebellion against God – just look at the Devil. The difference is when we *repent* of our sins and *submit* to Jesus as Lord over our life. We no longer believe we have authority over our own life and how we should live. Instead we joyfully surrender to our God who has ultimate authority over the world.
- Many historical and cultural details point to the understanding that the disciples did not fabricate the death and resurrection of Jesus. Here are a few examples:
  - Roman historical accounts of Jesus' death
  - The strength of the Roman soldiers guarding the tomb
  - The inclusion of testimonies from women
  - All 12 disciples being willing to die instead of saying that Jesus didn't rise from the dead

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## 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](https://bocacommunity.org/groups)