

Study Guide



Matthew 4:23-5:2– August 20, 2017

Introduction- Jesus' Five Discourses

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

As we look at Jesus' five discourses in Matthew, we see Matthew and the other disciples "at the feet of Jesus." These teachings are in the context of Jesus' calling and equipping the twelve apostles to go and make disciples of all nations. In our nine months of studying Jesus' five discourses of Matthew we will be sitting at the feet of Jesus learning the ins-and-outs of being disciple-makers ourselves. Our prayer is that we will be challenged to understand that we were saved in order to be disciple-makers and that we will be inspired to sit at the feet of Jesus to be equipped for our calling to be disciple-makers.

For further study on this weeks study please check out the following pages...

Action Step

Buy and Set up a disciple-makers' journal:

Establish something to keep notes throughout the year. It can be anything you want to use, an app or journal, the point is this is where will you be taking notes, prayer requests, and record answered prayers this year.

Calendar

August 20th— Member's Meeting

August 21st— Community Groups begin

September 17th— Connection Group

August 23rd— Youth begins (6:30-8:30pm) in the Annex.

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[There is a Fountain](#)":

There is a fountain filled with blood
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains

Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power
'Til all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more

Be saved to sin no more, be saved to sin no more
'Til all the ransomed church of God be saved to sin no more

E'er since by faith I saw the stream
Thy flowing wounds supplied
Redeeming love has been my theme
And shall be till I die

And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die

Commentary: Read Matthew 4:18-5:2

The first four chapters of Matthew brings us to feel the wonder and weight of the One who gives this invitation, this command, to four fisherman to **“Follow Me”** in verse 19. We see Jesus “teaching in the synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people” (4:23). Everywhere Jesus goes, he brings the kingdom of God with him, and the nature of God is evident in the goodness that results from Jesus’ ministry. In the presence of Jesus, disease, affliction, pain, demonic oppression, and disability all begin to disappear. This is Jesus, the Messiah, the Savior, the One promised to come in the kingly line of David. He is fully human and fully divine, the One whom wise men bow down (2:11), the One whose birth and life are the culmination of generations of prophecy and anticipation (1:23;2:6). He is perfectly filled with God’s Spirit and loved by God the Father (3:13-17). He is the only man who has conquered sin, and the true Son that Israel could never be.

There is only one conclusion to draw when we hear the invitation **“Follow Me”**: Jesus is worthy of far more than church attendance and casual association. We have such a dangerous tendency to reduce Jesus to a punny Savior who is just begging for you to accept Him into our lives. Jesus does not need to be accepted by us. **He is infinitely worthy of all glory in the whole universe, and He doesn’t need us at all.** We need Him.

He is worthy of total abandonment and supreme adoration. He is the Savior King of the universe and Righteous Judge of all nations. This is God in the flesh saying, **“Follow Me.”** There is no casual response to this invitation. It’s either “turn and run” or “bow and worship.” In Luke 5:1-11, we see as soon as Peter (one of the disciples) caught a glimpse of Jesus’ power and authority, he fell on his face, and then rose and followed. As he called his first disciples to follow him, they responded immediately to join him in gathering people into the kingdom. Everything is different once you meet Jesus.

As we start this series we are challenged to consider the question of whether or not we will follow Jesus. **We must consider the cost of what it means to follow Jesus, to live with radical abandonment for His glory, to lay down and leave behind all things in order to live for the King.** To repent, admit our sins, express sorrow over our sin, and to turn from our sin. To leave behind our comforts, our dependence on self. Disciples of Jesus must live with urgent obedience to His mission. We must ask ourselves, is He worthy of our lives and our possessions, our dreams and our ambitions? Is He worthy of it all, and will we gladly lay it all down for Him? In my life, am I willing to make known the good news of King Jesus?

As disciples, let’s come and sit at the feet of Jesus for the next nine months and learn what it means to be a citizen of Christ’s kingdom. To see and hear what He wanted His followers to be and do. **Not so we can make a list of things to do to be accepted by God, but because we have acceptance by God (through the cross of Jesus Christ) and we want to glorify Him in everything that we do.**

Discussion

1. In Matthew 4:18-22 what did Jesus ask from Simon (Peter), Andrew, James, and John? How was this call from Jesus a truly radical call for these businessmen?
2. What did Jesus say was his ultimate goal or purpose for these fishermen to follow him?
3. Jesus said in verse 19, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men". He could have said I will teach you how to become fishers of men, but instead he said, "I will make you fishers of men". What is the essential difference between the two?
4. How does verse 19 relate to the end of the book of Matthew—Matthew 28:18-20?
5. Do you suppose that the motivations for these four men to follow Jesus were the same reasons that Jesus called them? What do you suppose the motivations might have been for these men to follow Jesus?
6. What were the main activities that Jesus did at the beginning of his ministry (vs.28)? What were the results of his ministry among the people?
7. In Matthew 5:1-3 what method did Jesus use to teach the large crowds and his disciples at the same time?

Application

1. In what ways has the call to follow Jesus been watered down in our culture?
2. Explain the idea that every disciple is to be a disciple-maker. What might this look like for a mom with young kids? For an accountant? What about a college student?
3. Explain the following statement: The New Testament pattern for discipleship is more about “go and tell” than “come and see”.

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Joshua to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased
Young life
Heart of hope
First priority
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center
Community renewal
Grief counseling
Celebrate recovery
Samaritan counseling
Last call ministries
Golden age ministries
Rescue mission
Luke's lighthouse
FCA

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

Walk Prayer & Missions

For further information visit
norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared
Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

September— Serve Shreveport
October— South Sudan
March— NOLA
June— Serve Shreveport
July— Central America