

# Study Guide



## Matthew 10:34-42 – Dividing Loyalty February 25, 2018

### 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

This week continue to pray for the lost, pray for boldness, and pray for one another. Start a gospel conversation with someone or continue the gospel conversation you had. (See Below for further details).

## Calendar

March 4th- April 15th— Connection Group  
March 4th- April 15th— Kids Shine  
March 9th— Firm Foundation Fundraiser  
March 16th- 18th— DNOW  
April 1st— Easter  
June 11th-16th— Youth Camp

## 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 "[Set A Fire](#)":

No place I'd rather be  
No place I'd rather be  
No place I'd rather be  
Than here in Your Love  
Here in Your Love  
(x2)

So set a fire down in my soul  
That I can't contain and I can't control  
I want more of You, God  
I want more of You, God  
(x2)

No place I'd rather be  
No place I'd rather be  
No place I'd rather be  
Than here in Your Love  
Here in Your Love  
(x2)

So set a fire down in my soul  
That I can't contain and I can't control  
I want more of You, God  
I want more of You, God  
(x4)

No place I'd rather be  
No place I'd rather be  
No place I'd rather be  
Than here in Your Love  
Here in Your Love  
(x2)

So set a fire down in my soul  
That I can't contain and I can't control  
I want more of You, God  
I want more of You, God  
(x6)

No place I'd rather be  
No place I'd rather be  
No place I'd rather be  
Than here in Your Love  
Here in Your Love  
(x2)

So set a fire down in my soul  
That I can't contain and I can't control  
I want more of You, God  
I want more of You, God  
(x3)

No place I'd rather be  
There's no place I'd rather be  
There's no place I'd rather be  
Than here in Your Love  
Here in Your Love  
(x4)

**Commentary: Read Matthew 10:34-42**

In Matthew we have heard and read Jesus say being a follower of Him will not be easy (10:16-25). If you follow Him then others will betray you, hate you, and persecute you. The message and the mission of Jesus has caused division and hostility on His life and as His followers, those who share His message and authority, can expect no less. Jesus has laid before us the realities of being a disciple with a mission to an indifferent and hostile world. We come to verse 34 and Jesus shows His disciples the very purpose of His coming is “not peace but a sword,” because the message of God is one which always has and always will lead to violent response from those who are threatened by it.

Didn't Jesus come to bring “peace” (Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 2:14)? Weren't the disciples sent out to offer “peace” (Matt. 10:13)? Peace is an essential part of following Jesus but the world will so violently reject Jesus and his reign that men and women will divide over him. R.T. France says, “peace is not the way of avoidance of conflict, and Jesus will be continuously engaged in robust controversy.” The peace Jesus promised to give is not the absence of division or conflict. Jesus gives us a peace through the Holy Spirit as we believe in Him that will give us courage and boldness in the face of conflict and trouble. Jesus says, “I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.” He is saying, I have come to clearly divide who is for Jesus and who is against Jesus. If Jesus is Lord in your life and others hate Jesus then they will hate you no matter who you are. “For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those in his own household (10:35-36).” There will be division, even among your own household. Your love for Jesus should be superior to love for someone else. Our love for God and His kingdom must come before any other relationship (10:37). Everyone will choose to either follow Jesus or not and in choosing there will be division. As Pastor Tracy said in his sermon, “This division is a characteristic of Jesus' first coming, of his disciples on this earth, until Jesus comes again to judge His enemies and establish his final eternal earthly kingdom of peace among His followers who are all living under his reign.” Division is the means through which Jesus will establish His kingdom of peace.

In verses 38-39 Jesus calls his followers to take the ultimate risk. Jesus says that we must lose our life in order to find it. We must love Jesus more than anything, more than our families, more than our own lives. Taking our cross and losing our life means dying to everything else, sacrificing earthly things, for the sake of Christ and His kingdom. Jesus is asking His followers for total commitment. A disciple of Jesus will forfeit his life to Jesus. To make a commitment to depend on and obey Jesus that will lead to rejection and possibly even death. The ESV study bible summarizes this verse well, “Crucifixion is a shocking metaphor for discipleship. A disciple must deny himself (die to self-will), take up his cross (embrace God's will, no matter the cost), and follow Christ.

Concluding this section, verses 40-42, Jesus talks about the promise that awaits all who follow Him. His previous statement and commission is not a killjoy or a call to misery, it is a call to joy and satisfaction. To follow Jesus means to take the ultimate risk but in the process you find the ultimate reward. Our reward is not found in the pleasures of this world but we find our lives in sacrificing these things for the sake of the pleasure, safety, and security found in Christ. And as we live for Christ, as we commit to depend on and obey Jesus, we find peace, joy, and an eternal reward. But the reward is not just for us, it's also for those who hear our proclamation of Christ and believe in Christ themselves. As others believe in Him because of our proclamation then they too will experience eternal reward found in Christ.

## Discussion - Read Matthew 10:34-42

1. What were some takeaways from the sermon? What convicted you? What stood out to you? Explain.
2. What is the main point in verses 34-36? How does this point relate to what the angels said about Jesus when his birth was announced (Luke 2:14) and what Jesus said in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:9) about the peace-makers?
3. When you think about how Jesus lived his life, did he live as a man of peace? Look at Luke 22:49-51 and John 18:35-36 to help answer this question. In the light of these truths, what did Jesus mean when he said he came not to bring peace but a sword?
4. In verse 37 who does Jesus say should have the priority in the Christian's life—Jesus or the members of his family? What effect does this priority sometimes have upon relationships within the family?
5. In verses 37-38 the phrase "is not worthy of me" is used. What do you think that phrase means? What do these verses imply are the criteria for "being worthy" of being Jesus' disciple?
6. In the first part of verse 39, what does it mean to find one's life with the result of losing it?
7. In the last part of verse 39 what does it mean to lose one's life for Jesus sake with the result of finding it? How do you lose your life for Jesus sake? Refer to John 12:24-26 for some help with this question.

8. Most of chapter 10 deals with the warning about persecution that will face those who speak out about Jesus. How are these three verses different in their tone and content from the preceding paragraphs? What is the status of the disciples in these verses? Are they being persecuted or being received and welcomed?
  
9. Who receives the reward in these verses and what are they rewarded for? What kind of reward do you think Jesus is talking about (Matthew 25:34-35, 37, 40)?
  
10. Jim Elliot who was killed in Ecuador as a missionary by the Auca Indians in 1956 made a statement that since has become very famous and is very much related to Jesus' statement in verse 39. Think about and discuss in your community group Elliot's statement which is worded like this, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."
  
11. How does God's promised reward help fuel our faith and the carrying out of our mission?
  
12. Discuss with your group how sharing the gospel went? What fears did you encounter? Why did those fears hold you back? How did you overcome those fears? What was the conversation like? This week continue to pray for the lost, pray for boldness, and pray for one another. Continue the gospel conversation you had or start a gospel conversation with someone. Be bold and remember God is watching and caring for you so you can share the gospel freely, boldly, and fearlessly knowing that whatever you are faced with is a part of God's good and perfect plan for your life.
  - a. [Sharing your faith \(Article\): \(https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/\)](https://billygraham.org/story/sharing-your-faith-101/)
  - b. [Life Conversation Guide \(Video\): \(https://www.namb.net/video/3-circles-life-conversation-guide\)](https://www.namb.net/video/3-circles-life-conversation-guide)
  - c. [Questions about Sharing your Faith \(Article\): \(https://jdgrear.com/blog/ask-anything-friday-questions-about-sharing-christ/\)](https://jdgrear.com/blog/ask-anything-friday-questions-about-sharing-christ/)

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

### **Here is a list of missionaries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:**

Shannon & Carrie Lewis (South Sudan)  
Matt & Angie Johnson (Panama)  
Meggie Hickson (Tanzania)  
Kyle & Suzy Jagers (New Orleans)

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](http://norrisferrychurch.org) or contact Jared  
Clary ([clary@norrisferrychurch.org](mailto:clary@norrisferrychurch.org))

## Calendar

February 22nd- March 3rd — South Sudan  
March 29th- April 1st— NOLA  
June— Serve Shreveport  
July— Community Outreach