



Small Group Guide: The Forgotten Jesus

“Do You Know Jesus”

Icebreaker

When you first became a follower of Jesus, what did you think the Christian life would look like? How has that picture changed over time?

Key Scripture

Matthew 7:12-23 CSB

Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. “Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and many go through it. How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it. “Be on your guard against false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravaging wolves. You’ll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can’t produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So you’ll recognize them by their fruit. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?’ Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!’

Main Takeaways

- The Golden Rule Is Rooted in the character of God. Jesus is not introducing a brand-new idea. He is condensing the entire Old Testament into a single principle. The way we treat others should flow from how God has already treated us, not from what we hope to gain in return.
- The Narrow Gate Is About Life Today, Not Just Eternity. Jesus is not simply talking about dying and going to heaven. He is inviting people into an abundant, transformed life right now. The narrow road is the road of discipleship, and it costs something.
- The Word "Disciple" Carries More Weight Than the Word "Christian." The word Christian appears only three times in the entire New Testament. The word disciple appears 269 times. Jesus never commanded his followers to go and make Christians. He commanded them to go and make disciples. A disciple is not a spectator or a consumer. A disciple is someone who replicates what they have received.

- You will know false prophets by their fruit. Discernment is not optional. Jesus commands his followers to be fruit inspectors. The only way to identify false teaching is to know the word of God deeply and personally.
- Judas is the warning inside the inner circle. Judas heard every sermon, witnessed every miracle, and carried the ministry's finances. Yet at the Last Supper, while every other disciple called Jesus "Lord," Judas called him "Rabbi," meaning teacher. He admired Jesus but never surrendered to him. He supported the cause but kept control of his own life.
- The question is not whether you know Jesus. The question that matters is whether Jesus knows you. Knowing Jesus is the result of spending time in his word, obeying his commands, and falling in love with him as Lord, not merely admiring him as a teacher.

Discussion Questions

The Golden Rule

Reference: Matthew 7:12

- Pastor Robby pointed out that Jesus did not say the Golden Rule replaces the law and the prophets. He said it is the law and the prophets. How does that distinction change the way you understand this verse?
- He also noted that treating others well can sometimes be done manipulatively, as a way of getting something in return. How do you personally examine your motives when you serve or give to others? What does it look like to serve from a place of gratitude rather than a desire to earn or gain?
- The law of reciprocity was discussed, both in relationships and in how we conduct ourselves online and in public life. Where do you find it most difficult to treat others the way you want to be treated?

The Narrow Gate and Discipleship

Reference: Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 9:57-62

- Pastor Robby made the case that when Jesus talks about the road that leads to life, he is primarily talking about abundant life today, not only life after death. How does that reframing change the way you read and apply Jesus's teachings?
 - In Luke 9:57-62, three different men express a desire to follow Jesus, and each time Jesus raises the bar rather than lowers it. How does that challenge the way the church sometimes presents the call to follow Jesus?
 - The podcast drew a sharp distinction between the word "Christian" as a static, descriptive term and the word "disciple" as a dynamic, active word. In your own life, which word more accurately describes where you are right now? Be honest.
 - Pastor Robby said: "Until the disciple you have disciplined has made a disciple, you haven't made disciples. What you've made is a spectator, not a participant. A consumer, not a gospel co-worker." How does that statement challenge or encourage you?
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False Prophets and Discernment

Reference: Matthew 7:15-20

- Jesus says you will recognize false prophets by their fruit. What does it look like practically to be a "fruit inspector" without crossing into the kind of judgmental attitude Jesus warned against earlier in Matthew 7?
 - The group discussed how the best preaching teaches people to read the Bible for themselves. How dependent are you on teachers and preachers versus your own personal engagement with Scripture? What steps could you take to grow in your own study of the Word?
 - The point was made that "a leader who cannot be questioned is a questionable leader." Have you ever been in a church environment or under a leader where questioning was discouraged? How did that affect your spiritual growth?
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Does Jesus Know You?

Reference: Matthew 7:21-23; Matthew 26:20-25

- The contrast between the disciples saying "Surely not I, Lord" and Judas saying "Surely not I, Rabbi" is striking. What is the significance of that single word difference, and what does it reveal about the posture of Judas's heart?
 - Pastor Robby described Judas this way: "Judas was a man who heard every sermon. He listened to every message. He heard every truth. He witnessed every miracle firsthand." And yet Judas missed it entirely. What does that tell you about the danger of proximity to Jesus without surrender to him?
 - The central question of the podcast was this: not "Do you know Jesus?" but "Does Jesus know you?" How would you answer that question honestly right now? What evidence in your daily life supports your answer?
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Closing Prayer

- Thank God for the gift of His Word and its power to protect, guide, and transform.
- Ask for the courage to walk the narrow road even when the wide road is more comfortable.
- Pray for discernment to recognize truth from false teaching.
- Ask God to move Jesus from the position of teacher to the position of Lord in every area of your life where you are still holding on.