



Week 3 (November 27-December 3): Lesson Guide

Open in prayer

Welcome/Introductions

Ask the group to recall the guidelines for discussion that we use to create a safe environment.

Ask the Hook Question: “What dreams and goals are in your heart?”

Ask a group member to retell last week’s story (The 10 lepers).

Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:

From the beginning of His ministry, Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom of heaven was arriving with Him (Matt. 4:17). It was in light of this good news about the kingdom of heaven that Jesus called His disciples to follow Him (Matt. 4:19). The arriving kingdom of God is of great value, so much so that Jesus taught His disciples that it is worth giving up everything to be part of His kingdom. Why is this kingdom so valuable? Because the kingdom is where the King resides. David said that he would rather spend one day in the courts of the King than 10,000 anywhere else (Psalm 84:10).

In today’s story, Jesus tells two short parables about the kingdom of God. He told parables so that the secrets of God’s kingdom could be revealed to those who had faith to hear and search for the answers. Today’s parables are simple, but their message about God’s arriving kingdom is profound. Within these parables are the hidden answers for how a person can reach a place of full and complete satisfaction – regardless of their circumstances. Listen to these parables that Jesus told...

Tell the story from Matthew 13:44-46

Rebuild the story – (group members retell the story based on what they remember)

Read Matthew 13:44-46 – (ask the group to read these verses)

Discuss these questions:

Head Questions:
 Quicker tempo.

- What do these two parables have in common?
- Why do you think the people in these parables were willing to sell everything they had for *one treasure*?

Heart Question:
 Slow down & wait!

- What do you think the *one treasure* represents in these parables?
- When your soul feels empty and is longing for satisfaction, what does your flesh crave?
 - What addictions are you battling right now?
 - In what ways have you been battling discouragement or depression?

Action Lines

- What do you need to be doing that you have neglected to do?
- Practice sharing Jesus! Who can retell this week’s Bible story to our group?

Series Memory Verse: 1 John 4:12, “No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.” (Work on memorizing this verse as a group.)

Ask for a volunteer to tell the Bible story next week. (Consider having your apprentice facilitate.)

Prayer: First, pray for one another based on today’s discussion. Close by praying for any other needs in the group.

Keep your group connected before you dismiss (review announcements at www.westernhillchurch.com/rightnow).