



# JOURNEY GROUPS

NOV 2 LEADER GUIDE

## LEADERS NOTES

A few notes for you as a leader as you meet again this week:

- Thank you again to everyone who came out and served at Trunk or Treat! It was amazing to walk around and see SO many people from Journey volunteering, loving people, and hosting our community well. Thank you!
- I want to remind you to spend time looking through the questions ahead of time. Also, there are always more questions than what you can get through. That is by design. Do not feel like you need to get through them all. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and lead a conversation that helps push people into growth with Jesus!
- Quick question: how have you put relationships as a priority in your group in recent weeks? Does anything need to change?
- Also, start to make your plans with your group for the end of 2025. For instance, my group will meet the next three weeks, take Thanksgiving week off, meet one more week and then end with a Christmas party on December 9 (we meet Tuesdays). I will leave it up to you when you want your last week to be, but try to go until the first or second week of December.

## SHARE

Ice Breaker Questions (use whichever questions you want):

- What's something small that irrationally annoys you—but you can laugh about it now?
- When you start to feel frustrated, what's your go-to way to calm down/reset?
- Who's someone in your life who models peace really well? What do they do that stands out?

# STUDY

## Digging Deeper into "The Sermon on the Mount"

1. On Sunday Matt began by talking about how exciting growth can be. Are you growing in your faith right now? If so, in what ways?
2. Last week in our study of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that our righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees. He wasn't talking about becoming hyper-legalistic, he was talking about obeying the Spirit of the law and not just the letter of the law. For the next few weeks we will be looking at his examples. His first example focuses on the 6<sup>th</sup> commandment: Thou Shall Not Murder. **Have someone read Matthew 5:21-26.**
3. A Christian's life should not be marked by anger, but by love. **Have someone reread verses 21-22.** How would a Pharisee approach this passage? (*I haven't committed murder, therefore I am flawless in my obedience to this command.*)
4. What is the deeper understanding and application of this law, according to Jesus?
5. Why is it bad to harbor anger in our hearts? Why is it bad to nurse malice?
6. Does anyone remember what the words 'raca' and 'fool' meant in that culture? (*'empty head' and 'scoundrel'*)
7. How can the words that come out of our mouth give us an x-ray view of what is really going on in our hearts?
8. John Stott said, "Anger and insult are ugly symptoms of a desire to get rid of someone who stands in our way." What should we do when we start to feel our blood boiling against someone?
9. What situations or people most often tempt you toward anger or bitterness? What might those reactions reveal about what you treasure or fear?
10. Jesus equates anger in the heart with murder in action. How does this show our need for the gospel and not just better behavior?
11. How does this passage reveal that the gospel transforms not only what we do but who we are inside?

12. The next piece of our scripture today, applies what Jesus has been talking about to relationships. **Have someone read Matthew 5:23-24.**
- What is the point Jesus is making with this example?
13. We don't like it when people 'step on our toes.' Why do you think Jesus wants us to have such a sense of urgency to run to a brother or sister as quick as we can, when we MAY have offended them or hurt them?
14. Jesus emphasizes reconciliation before worship. What does that teach us about how God values relationships within the body of Christ?
15. What might it look like for our church to be known as a community that pursues peace and reconciliation quickly?
16. **Have someone read Matthew 5:25-26.** What is the wisdom Jesus has for us in these two verses?
17. What would it look like to replace anger with love in your thoughts, words, and prayers?
18. How can we as a small group encourage each other to live this out—especially when conflict arises among us?
19. Is there anything else from our conversation today that you need to be mindful about this week?

## PRAYER

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