



# JOURNEY GROUPS

## SEPT 14 LEADER GUIDE

### WELCOME AND PRAYER

Once you've had time to greet everyone, talk, and have some food, gather everyone together. (Name tags are probably a good idea again.) Thank everyone for being there again and pray over your evening together. Remember to be GREAT HOSTS!

\*Leaders - this week may be heavy - do not let it go too much into the weeds. Keep it focused on Scripture and the way of Jesus.

### SHARE

In most groups, you will have multiple people that were not with you the first week. In order to start fresh with everyone, go around the room again with quick 30-45 second introductions covering the basics.

Start with the basics:

- Who are you? (name, where you live, family, work, hobbies, etc.)
- How long have you lived in the Kingman area?
- How long have you been at Journey Church - what brought you here?

Ice Breaker Questions (use whichever questions you want):

- Share your favorite food from your favorite local restaurant.
- What's your favorite memory with your family?
- If you could host a talk show, who would be your first guest? Why?

\*If you started sharing testimonies one at a time last week, continue that this week if someone had volunteered. If you haven't started, consider sharing a five-minute version of your testimony and encourage someone else to do it for next week.

*Again, spend as much time as needed on this section as we are still building up relationships! You don't have to use all of these questions, but get people connecting and getting to know new things about each other!*

If you have new members this week, spend a little time talking through group values, expectations, and guidelines again. You can ask your other group members to help you recap, and also ask if they've thought of anything new. As a reminder, here are the questions we used last week (feel free to have new members share their answers for these):

- HOPES - Why did you sign up for one of these groups? What are you hoping to get out of this Journey Group?
- EXPECTATIONS - What expectations do you have for being in this group? What expectations can we have of each other?
- PURPOSE AND VALUES - on separate handout

## STUDY

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

1. This past week we had many reminders that the world we are living in is messed up. We know that things won't be restored and made right until Jesus comes back. **As we start, have someone read Ephesian 6:12.**
2. With everything going on in our country right now, why is it important for disciples to remember that our real enemy isn't people, but the evil one himself?
  - Are we praying when we hear troubling things or are we just shaking our heads and getting angry?
3. Matt heard a commentator this past week say, "We can't let our emotions run so wild for so long, that we start to see our political opponents as enemies." Why do we as Christians need to stay on the high road during highly politicized crises such as the one we found ourselves in last week?
4. The world we are living in is messed up right now. What is hedonistic idolatry and why is it the wrong way for us to respond to our moment in history? (*hedonistic idolatry - ignoring what's going on in the world as much as possible to keep the focus on fulfilling our own desires 24/7, 365.*)
5. We aren't to refrain from voting and engaging in politics. That would be poor stewardship. What is political idolatry and how do we avoid it? (*political idolatry - putting more hope and energy into a worldly kingdom while forgetting that God is our only true hope. Or spiritualizing our political heroes and putting them on the same level as God*)

- 6.The world is messed up. We can feel hopeless about things ever getting better. How does the fact that God is real, and alive, and involved keep us from being fatalistic atheists? *(a fatalistic atheist believes we are doomed, and ignores that God is real or bigger than the storms we face.)*
- 7.In the middle of these storms, God is calling us! Jesus wants to deploy the church He created through His victory over sin and death. The Sermon on the Mount is His manifesto for how we should live. Let's look at the two bookends of the most famous sermon ever recorded! **Have someone read Matthew 5:1-2.**
- 8.Who is the sermon for? To whom is Jesus directing these commands?
- 9.We haven't studied the sermon yet, but it is very famous. Why do you think Jesus' sermon on the mount is the most well known set of instructions, but the least obeyed?
- 10.The other bookend of the sermon is Matthew 7:28-29. **Have someone read the reaction that people had to the sermon when Jesus was done speaking.**
- 11.What does it mean that Jesus spoke as one who had authority, not just as a teacher?
- 12.As we prepare to spend the next few months walking through Jesus' kingdom manifesto, how can we hold each other accountable to apply his teaching to our lives and not just marvel at the beauty of it?

## PRAYER

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