

DIGGING DEEPER

Small Group Discussion Guide: Matthew 8:18–9:8

During this 5-week series in Matthew 8–10, we will watch the King in action. Jesus has just finished teaching with authority in the Sermon on the Mount, and now He puts that authority on display: over sickness, storms, and spiritual powers. Then He sends His followers out to join His mission. **Before you begin your discussion, take a moment to pray together.** Invite the Holy Spirit to open your hearts and minds to what He wants to show you. Ask Him to guide your conversation, help you listen well to one another, and reveal how He is inviting you to grow.

READ THE PASSAGE TOGETHER: Matthew 8:18–9:8

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Don't feel pressured to get through every question! Follow as the Spirit leads and spend your time on the questions that spark meaningful conversation.

1. **Read Matthew 8:18–22.** Two men offered to follow Jesus, but each came with a condition. Jesus answered with a warning. What “first let me...” might be holding you back from following Him fully?
2. **Read Matthew 8:23–27.** The disciples obeyed Jesus by getting into the boat, and the storm came anyway. Jesus spoke to their fear before He calmed the wind. What storm are you facing, and what would it look like to trust Him in the middle of it?
3. **Read Matthew 8:28–34.** Jesus set two tormented men free, and the whole town begged Him to leave. They seemed more upset about their pigs than glad about the people He rescued. What might we be afraid to lose if we let Jesus fully into our lives?
4. **Read Matthew 9:1–2.** Friends carried a paralyzed man to Jesus hoping for healing, but Jesus first said, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” Why do you think Jesus started there? What does it mean for you to “take heart” in His forgiveness?
5. **Read Matthew 9:3–8.** Many people today distrust authority because power is so often misused. Jesus used His authority to calm, to free, and to forgive. How does that change the way you see His authority over your life? Who could you carry to Him this week?

SHARE & PRAYER

As we watch the King in action in Matthew 8–10, we want to grow in recognizing the authority of Jesus in everyday life and in joining Him on His mission! We invite you to cultivate the practice of paying attention as you go about your week, pausing to reflect, noticing where you see Jesus at work, where He is asking you to trust His word, and who He might be sending you toward. As we learn to notice and name what the King is doing, we become more aware of His presence and more ready to take part in what He is doing. **Take on the weekly challenge to pay attention and come prepared to share with your group!**

- **SHARE:** Where have you seen God at work this week? Share a story, moment, conversation, answered prayer, unexpected provision, opportunity, or anything else that made you aware of God. (This could be in your own life, someone else's life, our church, or the world around you).
- **RESPOND:** What might God be inviting you to do, see, trust, change or participate in this week?
- **PRAY:** Share prayer requests and pray together. Incorporate this week's passage and ask: Where do we need to trust the King's authority and invite Him to act?





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MORE WAYS TO ENGAGE

Fair Oaks Church Sermon Podcast (Apple Pod & Spotify)

- Listen to Sunday messages posted weekly
- Listen to Cutting Room Floor episodes that further unpack sermons

UPCOMING EVENTS Learn more at fairoaks.church/events

- **2027 Mission Trip Applications Open** | Due by 11/30 | Submit online at fairoaks.church/missions
- **11/5: WFO Women's Brunch** | 9:30a-11:30a | Family Life Center (AMC Room) | Speaker: Laurel Harper from Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse)
- **11/7: Craft Fair** | 9a-2p | Family Life Center | Come shop for handmade crafts and seasonal items for the holidays | All proceeds will benefit missions and outreach projects through Fair Oaks Church
- **11/7: Free Grief Workshop Series** | Nov 7, 14, & 21 | 1:30p-3:30p | Kids & Youth Center – High School Classroom | Presented by David Howell, Counselor with CCA
- **11/8: Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Due** | Pick up an empty box in the lobby and return it filled, with \$10 per box
- **11/8: Thanksgiving Food Drive** | 9a-12p | Worship Center Lobby | We are partnering with the Sayonara Center in Citrus Heights and Northridge Elementary School to provide local families with all ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal | List of needed items at fairoaks.church/events
- **11/8: Family Devotions Class** | 12-2p | Kids Assembly Room | Recommended for 3rd-8th graders and parents | Lunch provided | Childcare provided for children under 3rd grade | Register at fairoaks.church/events
- **11/8: Winds of Faith Concert** | 4-6p | Worship Center | Winds of Faith is a non-profit community concert band with over 30 members | Free (a freewill offering will be taken)
- **11/11: Hope Gathering Widows Group** | 5-7p | Family Life Center (AMC Room) | For widows of all ages to find hope and healing
- **11/13: Distribution Day at FO/OV Food Bank** | 9a-12:30p | Volunteers needed to serve at the food bank | Sign up to help at fairoaks.church/missions

STAY INFORMED

Check The Weekly fairoaks.church/theweekly - All church news in one spot!

