

DIGGING DEEPER

Small Group Discussion Guide: Matthew 9:37–10:8

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 9:37–10:8

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 9:37–10:1.** Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few," and tells His disciples to ask the Lord of the harvest for workers. Then He calls those same disciples and gives them His authority. The ones who prayed became the answer to their own prayer. How might God answer our prayers through us? What can make it difficult to say, "Here I am. Send me."?
2. **Read Matthew 10:2–4.** Matthew names each of the Twelve, yet we know almost nothing about most of them. The list holds fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot, and Judas, "who betrayed him." Jesus builds His kingdom with ordinary and unlikely people. What does it mean to you that Jesus calls His followers by name? Does Jesus call anyone and everyone, or are some people excluded? Why do you think that?
3. **Read Matthew 10:5–6.** Jesus sends the Twelve first to "the lost sheep of Israel," their own people close to home. Later He will send them to all nations (28:19). N.T. Wright notes the Twelve were not only a sign that God was restoring Israel but part of how He was doing it. Who are the "lost sheep" close to home for our group? What keeps us from starting there?
4. **Read Matthew 10:7–8a.** Jesus gives the Twelve His own message, "The kingdom of heaven has come near," and His own works: heal, raise, cleanse, drive out. To "cleanse" a leper meant restoring an outcast to family and worship, not only healing a body. Which comes more naturally to you, words or works? Who in our world feels shut out, and how could we help restore them?
5. **Read Matthew 10:8b.** Jesus states, "Freely you have received; freely give." The word for "freely" is the same one Paul uses for being "justified freely" by God's grace (Romans 3:24). Tim Keller taught that radical generosity flows from a heart that has received God's costly grace. What have you received from God that you haven't earned? What could you give freely this season?

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
- **11/18: Thanksgiving Basket Packing Party** | 6:30-8p | Family Life Center | Help assemble Thanksgiving Baskets for families in our community!
- **11/21: Men's Breakfast** | 8-10a | Family Life Center, AMC | Men (18+) are invited for breakfast, fellowship, and time together
- **11/21: Free Grief Workshop Series (final session)** | 1:30p–3:30p | Kids & Youth Center – High School Classroom | Presented by David Howell, Counselor with CCA
- **11/22: Community Remembrance Service** | 1-2p | Wells Chapel | A community service to remember the dearly departed this holiday season | Facilitated by David Howell, from CCA
- **11/22–12/13: Toy Drive for Merry Marketplace** | Bring new, unwrapped gifts (about $25–$30) to the church lobby or church office | Learn more at fairoaks.church/events
- **12/2: Deck the Halls** | 4-6:30p | Family Life Center | Come help us prepare for Christmas Kickoff and the Advent season | Volunteers of all ages are welcome.
- **12/3: WFO Women's Brunch** | 9:30a-11:30a | Family Life Center (AMC Room) | Guest speaker Liana Luna from Mustard Seed School a program of Loaves & Fishes.
- **12/6: Christmas Kickoff** | 10:30a United Worship Service | 11:30a Gingerbread House Decorating and Continental Breakfast | Gingerbread House Kit: $30 each ($25 each additional house) | Tickets availabe at fairoaks.church/events
- **12/9: Hope Gathering Widows Group** | 5-7pm | Family Life Center, AMC | A place where widows of all ages can find hope and healing within a Christian community | Join us for a potluck dinner and fellowship.
- **12/11: Distribution Day at FO/OV Food Bank** | 9a-12:30p | Help pack and distribute food.
- **12/17: Merry Marketplace** | 2-6p | Family Life Center | Volunteers needed to help with setup, host parents (and kids!) from start to finish, wrap gifts, and clean up. Sign at fairoaks.church/events
- **12/18: Ditch the Parents: Christmas Edition** | 5-9p | Kids & Youth Center | For kids ages 3 years - 5th grade | Bounce houses, crafts, an epic snowball fight, dinner & a movie | Cost: $15/child, registration closes 12/11 at noon | Sign up at fairoaks.church/events

STAY INFORMED

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