

Here's a small group guide based on the sermon transcription:

Small Group Guide: The Two Paths

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus presents two paths in life - one leading to destruction and one leading to life.
2. The path to life is narrow and difficult, while the path to destruction is wide and easy.
3. False prophets can deceive us, but we can recognize them by their fruit.
4. Believing the right things, feeling the right emotions, and doing good works are not enough to ensure we're on the right path.
5. The true markers of being on the right path are practicing Jesus' teachings and proclaiming His salvation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. The pastor mentioned that "the road is not life." How does this contrast with popular cultural ideas? How might this perspective change how we view our life journey?
3. Discuss the difference between the "narrow" and "wide" gates. Why do you think few choose the narrow path?
4. How can we discern between true and false teachers in today's world of numerous voices and platforms?
5. The sermon highlighted that both paths can have people who believe right things, feel right emotions, and do good works. How does this challenge your understanding of what it means to follow Jesus?
6. What does it mean to practice Jesus' teachings in your daily life? Share some specific examples.

7. How does proclaiming Jesus' salvation differ from proclaiming our own credentials? Why is this distinction important?
8. Reflect on the image of building a house on rock versus sand. What are some "sandy" foundations people might build their lives on today?

Practical Applications:

1. Self-reflection: Take some time this week to honestly examine your life. Are you practicing Jesus' teachings and proclaiming His salvation, or are you relying on your own credentials?
2. Scripture study: Read through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) this week, paying special attention to Jesus' practical teachings.
3. Accountability: Partner with someone in the group to encourage each other in choosing the narrow path and living out Jesus' teachings.
4. Media fast: Consider taking a break from social media or other platforms that might be "false prophet" voices in your life. Use that time to engage with Scripture or Christian community instead.
5. Service project: As a group, plan a way to serve others that demonstrates both practicing Jesus' teachings and proclaiming His salvation.

Closing Prayer