

Small Group Guide: Jesus' Ministry in Galilee, Matt. 4:23-25

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus' ministry had three main components: teaching, preaching, and healing.
2. Teaching explains the truth, while preaching proclaims it with a call to repentance.
3. Jesus' healing ministry demonstrated his divine authority and compassion.
4. Christ's ministry was holistic, addressing both physical and spiritual needs.
5. Jesus' fame spread widely, drawing crowds from diverse regions.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you see the balance of teaching and preaching in our church today? Why are both important?
2. The sermon emphasized that "the Bible is for you, but it is not about you." How does this perspective change the way we approach Scripture?
3. In what ways can we emulate Jesus' holistic ministry approach in our own lives and communities?
4. Discuss the four reasons why Jesus performed miracles, as mentioned in the sermon. Which one impacts you the most and why?
5. How does understanding Jesus' compassion in his healing ministry affect your view of him and your own approach to serving others?
6. The sermon touched on the idea that Jesus' ministry reached both Jews and Gentiles. How does this relate to our mission as Christians today?

Practical Application:

1. Teach the Word: Commit to regularly studying Scripture, perhaps by joining a Bible study or starting a reading plan.
2. Proclaim the Kingdom: Share one aspect of the gospel with someone this week.
3. Point to the Healer: Pray for someone who needs physical or spiritual healing, and look for ways to practically support them.
4. Develop a more holistic approach to your faith by identifying one area where you tend to focus on either just the spiritual or just the physical, and work on balancing it.
5. Reflect on how you can show more of Christ's compassion in your daily interactions with others.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for Jesus' perfect ministry example. Ask for wisdom and strength to apply these lessons in our lives, and for opportunities to share the gospel and demonstrate Christ's love to others.

5-Day Devo:

Day 1: The Power of Jesus' Ministry

Reading: Matthew 4:23-25

Jesus' ministry was characterized by teaching, preaching, and healing. As we reflect on these verses, consider the holistic nature of Christ's work. He addressed both spiritual and physical needs, demonstrating God's love for the whole person.

How might God be calling you to minister to others in a more complete way? Perhaps there are opportunities in your life to not only share the gospel but also to show practical love and care.

Pray for discernment in how you can emulate Christ's ministry in your own sphere of influence.

Day 2: The Good News of the Kingdom

Reading: Romans 10:9-10

The gospel - the good news of God's kingdom - was at the heart of Jesus' preaching. Paul explains in Romans how this good news transforms lives through faith and confession. Today, reflect on your own journey of faith.

How has believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth changed you? Consider sharing your testimony with someone today, proclaiming the kingdom as Jesus did.

Remember, the power of the gospel is just as relevant and transformative now as it was in Jesus' time.

Day 3: Healing and Hope

Reading: Isaiah 35:5-6, Matthew 11:2-6

Jesus' healing ministry was a sign of the Messianic age, fulfilling prophecies like those in Isaiah. As you read these passages, contemplate the hope they offer. While we may not always experience physical healing in this life, Christ's power to heal reminds us of the ultimate restoration awaiting us in His kingdom.

How can you bring hope to those suffering around you?

Pray for opportunities to point others to the ultimate Healer, Jesus Christ.

Day 4: Unity in Christ

Reading: Galatians 3:28, Revelation 7:9-10

The gospel breaks down barriers and unites people from all backgrounds. Jesus' ministry attracted crowds from diverse regions, foreshadowing the global church. As you meditate on these verses, examine your own heart. \

Are there prejudices or divisions you need to overcome? How can you actively work towards unity within your church and community?

Pray for a vision of God's diverse kingdom and for the grace to love all people as Christ does.

Day 5: Responding to Jesus' Call

Reading: Colossians 1:13-14

Jesus' ministry wasn't just about temporary healing or teaching - it was about transferring us from darkness to light, from Satan's domain to God's kingdom. As you reflect on this profound truth, consider your response to Christ's work.

Are you living as a citizen of God's kingdom? How can you more fully embrace your identity in Christ?

Take time to thank God for His redemption and forgiveness, and ask for the strength to live out your calling as His child and ambassador in this world.