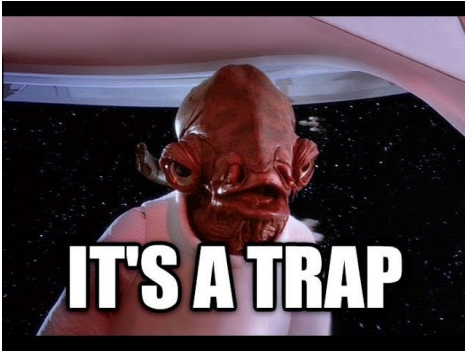


Life Group Guide – Week Starting 19th April 2026

Key Scriptures: Mark 8:13-21

This week's BIG IDEA



In today's passage Jesus warns his disciples against two traps, legalism and worldliness. How can we live a righteous, faith filled life following Jesus without succumbing to either of these traps?

Focusing on God

Listen to this song together: [Trust In God \(feat. Chris Brown\) | Official Lyric Video | Elevation Worship](#)

Spend some time together praying prayers of worship and praise to Jesus. Try to refrain from prayers asking God for things but focus solely on giving him glory.

Opening Questions

- Who are the 'baddies' of the Gospels? Spend some time together discussing Pharisees, Sadducees, Herod and Romans so that everyone is clear on these different groups. (Helpful table included below for you)

Pharisees	Romans	Sadducees	Herod
Populist teachers, mostly based in the Synagogues in the towns and villages rather than the Temple. Believed the oral, rabbinical law was just as important as the written law of Moses found in the Torah (Gen-Deut). Believed the Romans were a punishment for the sins of Israel and so Israel needed to return to radical purity and obedience to the law.	Of Empire fame. Had conquered Judea the century before. Largely hands off in their rule as long as there was order. Relied on Sadducees and Herod to keep peace.	The ancient priestly caste. decedents of Zadok, the priest who anointed Solomon. Aristocratic and predominant in Jerusalem and the Temple. They had largely collaborated with the Romans in order to maintain their power and influence.	Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great. Was a puppet king for the Romans in Judea.

Discipleship Discussion

- Look at verse 14. Why is Jesus suddenly talking about leaven (yeast)?
- Spend a moment discussing what the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod might be? (For the leaven of Herod a potential clue comes from Matthew's version in which he changes the warning to the leaven of the Sadducees instead).
- What does he want his disciples to avoid?
- Can you see either of these two traps at work in parts of the church today? What about your own heart?

- In verses 17-21 Jesus evokes the recent memories of the feeding of the 5,000 and 4,000 to try and get the disciples to understand his point. How do these two miracles help guard against the two traps?

Prayer Response

Spend some time praying for each other to trust in Jesus and to avoid the traps of legalism and worldliness.