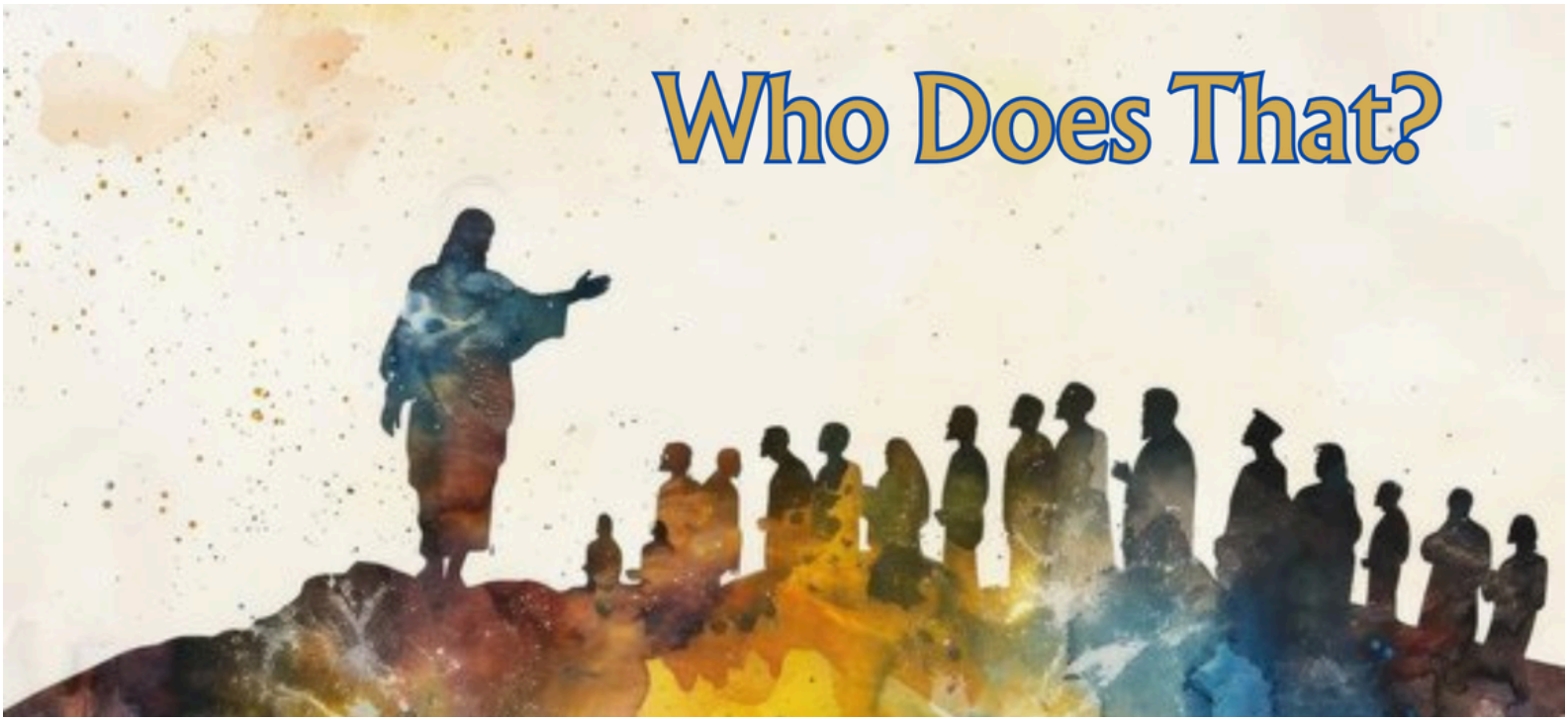


Small Groups Discussion Questions

Week 2: Guard What Matters (Matthew 5:27-32)

Group Goal: Jesus is not merely concerned with keeping us from crossing a line. He is concerned with the direction of our hearts. Kingdom people take responsibility for protecting what matters most.

1. Restrictions or Responsibility?

Read Matthew 5:14-16.
Would you say Jesus is more focused on restricting behavior or embracing our Kingdom responsibility? What does Jesus call His followers to be in the world?

2. Start With the Heart

Read Matthew 5:27-30.
Why does Jesus make adultery a heart-level issue rather than simply a behavioral issue? How can someone begin moving in the wrong direction long before crossing a line?

3. Strong Language

Read Matthew 5:29-30.
What do you think Jesus is communicating through His extreme language about gouging out an eye or cutting off a hand? What does this teach us about dealing with sin?

4. Rule Follower or Heart Follower?

Read Matthew 5:20.
What is the difference between someone who merely follows rules and someone who genuinely pursues the heart of God? Why might a life shaped by God's heart make others ask, "Who does that?"

5. It's On Us

Read Proverbs 4:23.
"What we neglect, we leave unprotected."

How does Solomon's instruction connect with Jesus' teaching? What are some areas people commonly neglect spiritually? How can neglect lead to spiritual drift?

6. Guard What Matters

What is one area of your spiritual life, relationships, or thought life that you need to protect more intentionally? What is one practical step you can take this week?