

## **Small Group Guide: Putting First Things First**

**Opening Prayer:** Begin the session with a prayer, asking for God's guidance and wisdom as you discuss the sermon.

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. The importance of keeping Christ as our top priority
2. The dangers of false leadership and idolatry in spiritual matters
3. The need for personal examination and repentance
4. The call to be salt and light in a dark world

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. The sermon began with a reference to the song "First Things First." What does it mean to put Christ first in your life? How can we practically do this in our daily routines?
2. Micah 3 talks about corrupt leaders, false prophets, and priests. How can we discern between true and false spiritual leadership today?
3. The sermon mentioned the story of the golden calf in Exodus 32. What are some modern-day "golden calves" or idols that people, including Christians, might be tempted to worship?
4. How does Romans 1:18-25 describe the process of people turning away from God? Have you observed this process in society or in your own life?
5. The pastor emphasized the difference between knowing about God and truly knowing God. How would you describe this difference? How can we deepen our relationship with God beyond just knowing facts about Him?
6. What does it mean to "deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus" in today's context?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Self-examination: Take some time this week to prayerfully examine your life for any "idols" or misplaced priorities. Ask God to reveal areas where you may need to refocus on Him.
2. Scripture meditation: Choose one of the Bible passages mentioned in the sermon (e.g., Micah 3, Romans 1:18-25, or Matthew 6:24-25) and spend time meditating on it throughout the week.
3. Intentional prioritizing: Make a list of your top priorities and honestly evaluate whether they align with putting Christ first. Make adjustments as necessary.
4. Acts of service: Look for opportunities to be "salt and light" in your community this week. This could involve volunteering, reaching out to a neighbor in need, or sharing your faith with someone.

**Closing Prayer:** End the session by praying for each other, asking God to help group members apply the lessons learned and to grow in their faith and commitment to Christ.