

Community Group Discussion Guide

Step 01: Recap what our current series is all about.

Note: Remind the group what series we're currently on (since not everyone will have been at church recently) and read through the series description provided below to refresh everyone on what it's all about.

Series Title: Source Code

Description: During a grueling, snow-covered hike with his friends, 13 year-old Bill Gates imagined a simple, *source code* for the one computer that was currently on loan to his middle school. The simplicity of the code allowed him to remember it for years until he was finally able to implement it, and the power of the code ended up creating a multi-billion dollar company known as Microsoft.

In this series, Source Code, we are studying Jesus' most famous collection of teachings found in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7. The Sermon on the Mount, in its own simplicity and power has shaped the life of every follower of Jesus for the last 2,000 years. Let's take a closer look and see what Jesus taught.

Step 02: Recap of this week's message.

Note: Read through the message outline with everyone briefly. You can stop and make comments as you see fit or read straight through it. Make sure you take time to read through the main text.

Message Title: The Choice

Main Text: Matthew 7:13-4; 17-19; 24-29

Supporting Texts:

Message Outline:

Read the main texts aloud in your group.

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In the closing section of the sermon on the mount, Jesus leads all those listening to a deliberate choice with a series of three different but mirroring illustrations—two paths, two trees, and two houses.

Two Paths

Jesus speaks of two paths—one that leads to life and one that leads to destruction. The only problem is the one that leads to life is narrow and more difficult.

- It's possible the audience would've immediately considered the steps leading up to and away from the temple in Jerusalem. The steps up, towards the presence of God were narrow while the steps heading back down, away from the presence of God were wide.

Two Trees

Next Jesus speaks of two trees—one that produces good fruit and one that produces bad fruit.

- But then Jesus seems to qualify this in verses 21-23 pointing past the seemingly good fruit and taking aim at our heart (and motives).
- Where is our heart? Which tree will we be?

Two Houses

Finally Jesus speaks of two houses—one built on rock and the other built on sand. The difference in the foundation is determined not by whether or not we hear, but whether or not we **do**.

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- What if the “storms of life” were not just external (diagnoses, disappointments, etc.) but internal i.e. our own sin...

Step 03: Lead group discussion.

Note: Do your best to keep the discussion going. Make sure you have read through the questions beforehand and are primed with thoughts of your own. Make everyone get specific with *how* they will apply this message in their own lives and in community—*no vague ideas allowed!*

Specific to this week’s message:

1. What comes to mind first when you hear Jesus talk about two paths? Two trees? Two houses?
2. The way Jesus presents these dichotomies would suggest that there is no in between option. How intentional are you to choose the narrow path?
3. What does the narrow path look like for you right now?
4. Consider the two trees. Where do you see good fruit in your life? Where is there a lack of fruit?
5. Jesus closes the entirety of this sermon with a call to action—*take these words and put them into practice.* Have you wrestled with the fact that building your house on the rock is not a call to believe something but instead a call to be obedient to someone?
6. How can we assess whether or not we are on the narrow path/producing good fruit/building on the rock?
7. Having studied the sermon on the mount for the last 7 weeks, what are your final thoughts? What have you learned? What can you apply?

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General questions:

8. How did this message encourage you? How did it convict you?
9. What is your plan for applying this message to your personal/daily life?
10. What might it look like for us to live this out in community?
11. Was there anything about this message that stood out to you?