



# COMMUNITY GROUPS

SANTA CRUZ BIBLE CHURCH

## Going Further: Learning to Walk In the Way of Jesus

### Faith In King Jesus

September 13, 2020

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#### Passages

- Primary passage: Luke 14:25-35
- Mark 10:17-22
- Philippians 2:5-11

#### Questions

- Opener:
  - Does trusting people come easily for you or is it more difficult for you? Why? How has trusting people turned out for you in life?
  - How are you doing this week? What do you need right now? (Continue to refer to the Needs Inventory, see Additional Resources below)
- Share Experience:
  - Does trusting God come easily or is it more difficult for you? Why?
  - What has made it difficult to trust or give allegiance to God in your life?
  - In what ways has it been easy to trust or give allegiance to God? Why?
  - Is there anything in your life currently that competes with Jesus for your trust and allegiance?
  - On Sunday, Dave Tieche talked about how we can often view Jesus like a President; someone we support as long as they do what we want, otherwise we vote them out. What are some of the ways that this has or could show up in your life?
- Dig Into:
  - How would you define "faith" according to the passages we're looking at tonight?
  - How is the message that Jesus is King good news?
  - What does allegiance to Jesus look like in the place and time we find ourselves in?
  - According to Philippians 2, what is it that enables Jesus to be recognized in his place of rightful authority? What are the implications of this for how we bear witness to Jesus publicly?

## **Creative Ideas**

- Listen to the song “King Jesus” by Matt Redman. What thoughts and emotions does this song stir in you? How does it shed light on the meaning of the passages we read and the topic of allegiance to Jesus?

## **Practices**

- Meditate on the Mark 10:17-22 passage this week. In which area(s) is Jesus inviting you to trust him? Make a specific commitment to Jesus, write out a prayer asking for His help, post it somewhere you’ll see it regularly, and tell one person about your commitment. Review at the end of the week; how did it go? If you didn’t fulfill your commitment, don’t let this be a source of guilt and shame. Allow Jesus to meet you with love and grace in this place of failure. What did you learn? Ask Jesus again for the grace and strength to keep the commitment this next week.

## **Additional Resources**

- The questions at the end are fantastic! <https://timchester.wordpress.com/2016/03/21/following-up-the-sermon-in-small-groups/>
- Needs Inventory - <https://www.cnvc.org/sites/default/files/2018-10/CNVC-needs-inventory.pdf>
- Song: [“King Jesus” by Matt Redman](#)

## How to use this Walking in the Way Guide

1. It's important to know that there's more material here than any one group can cover in one night. Please **DO NOT** try to get through every scripture passage, question, and creative idea. That is a recipe for discouragement and burnout!
2. Do use this guide as a way to spark some discussion following from last Sunday's message. As the Community Group Leader, you know your group the best. Select which elements from this guide would be most helpful and relevant to your group!
3. **Scripture:** We will always give two or more passages of scripture that are relevant to the topic from Sunday's sermon. Ideally select one passage and stay there. Use only two at the most. You may want to have someone read the passage out loud and then work through the questions from the *5 Questions to Ask When Reading Your Bible* guide below. This is a great resource to print out and give to every member of your Community Group to help guide their own Bible reading at home!
4. **Questions:** There are more questions here than you'll likely be able to get through in one night. Select some questions you think might resonate with your group and throw questions to the group for discussion until one really takes off! You know a good discussion is happening when group members are interacting with and responding to what each other is saying and not just what is coming from you as the group leader!
5. **Creative Ideas:** If you feel it will help your group, select one of these creative ideas to help your group process and interact with the theme for this week. Feel free to add in your own creative ideas as well!!
6. **Practices:** This is how we grow in grace! Practices are what move a good discussion from merely interesting to life transforming. These sample practices are given to help you and the group live into the reality that was talked about on Sunday and that you interacted with in Scripture this week. **Choose one or (at most) two practices that you as a group will commit to doing this next week to live into God's truth.** As you come back next week, debrief how those practices went the previous week!
7. **Sample Schedule:** Here's a sample timeline for how to budget your time for a Community Group meeting. Keep in mind, this is a suggestion, not a rule to follow. **Do what works best for your community!**
  - **Arrival:** Catching up and Snacks - 15 min
  - **Intro:** See how everyone's doing. Maybe throw out an icebreaker question. As the group gets more comfortable, you can use this time to debrief the previous week's practice. - 10 min
  - **Scripture:** Dig into one passage from scripture using the 5 Questions (See Below) - 25 min
  - **Discussion** - 20 min
  - **Closing:** Decide on which practice(s) you'll commit to this week. Spend time praying for each other and those you sense God is sending you to - 10 min

## **5 Questions To Ask When Reading Your Bible - Worksheet**

Whether you're a seminary professor or you've just recently picked up a Bible for the first time, these five questions can help you engage with Scripture. Try using it by yourself or with a group of people to read, understand and live out the Bible.

### **Question 1: What is going on in the passage?**

- What's happening here?
- Who are the main characters?
- Very simply, *what is*?

### **Question 2: What do I like about the passage?**

- What parts of this passage/story encourage me?
- What inspires, pleases or excites me based on what I've read?
- Why?

### **Question 3: What disturbs or startles me about the passage?**

- What is it about this passage that reveals truth that may be hard to accept?
- What disturbs me or jolts, confronts or even offends me in my understanding of God, His Son, the world or my life?
- Why don't I like that?

### **Question 4: What does this say about the nature of God and/or the character of Jesus?**

- What does this passage say about who God actually is?
- What does this say about the essence of his nature?
- What can I see about the character of Jesus (his patience, holiness, compassion, righteousness, etc)?

### **Question 5: What will I do with what I just learned in the next seven days?**

- How will we respond to what we've just read?
- What will I do with what I just learned?
- How do I make sure that this wasn't just intellectual ascent? How do I put this into practice?