

MATTHEW

THE KING OF GLORY

THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM

THE KING OF FREEDOM

March 12, 2023

*Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment.
Matthew 17:18 NIV*

THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

This section is to be looked at every week as a group and the first thing you start with as a leader. We must be taking time to see where God is working in each of our lives, encouraging one another, and taking steps to unite with God's will. The time spent on these questions will create a beautiful storyline of God throughout the year and create space for life-on-life discipleship within your Life Group.

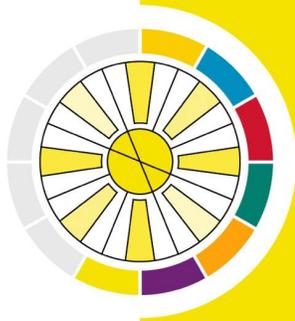
- ◆ Where are you seeing God at work in your life and around you?
- ◆ What is He doing/saying? How is He challenging you? How can we pray?

YOUR TIME WITH THE TEXT

This section is for you to encourage your group to be interacting with the scripture text that is preached on Sunday morning or from your personal Bible reading this week. We want to see how we are reading the Bible together and gaining insight from each person in the group.

- ◆ Read Matthew 17:14-27 before entering this piece of discussion.
- ◆ What questions were you asking when you read this text?
- ◆ How did this text encourage you and why?
- ◆ Every time we read Scripture, we can find key elements of God's overall story of redemption - Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration. How do you see those showing up here in this text?
 - Creation—God's heart for the world
 - Fall—The reality of sin and brokenness
 - Redemption—God's plan to step in and save
 - Restoration—God's desire to bring wholeness and healing to all creation





MATTHEW

THE KING OF GLORY

THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM

MATTHEW 17:14-27 DISCUSSION

- ◆ The man did not let the disciples' failure keep him from asking Jesus to have mercy on his son, and he believed that Jesus could do something. Why do you think Jesus rebukes the crowd as well as his disciples? Can it be that even amid an "unbelieving and perverse generation," there are those who have hope?
- ◆ Jesus gave his 12 disciples authority over demons (Mathew 10:1). In Mark 6:13 we see them being able to exercise this authority. We can then understand why they would be puzzled and ask Jesus why they were not able to in this instance (v19). How did Jesus answer them?
- ◆ Other translations use the word unbelief instead of faith. What is the root of our unbelief or having faith? Think of where you put your confidence or trust. Is it the size of your faith that matters, or where you put your trust? Discuss.

ACTION

- ◆ Jesus laments and rebukes "this generation" because they have learned from him and still refuse to live a life acknowledging his authority. Do you see this in our generation? Do you see this in yourself? How can we have the faith of a mustard seed?
- ◆ In verses 22-23, Jesus predicts his death a second time and says he will be delivered (betrayed) into the hands of men. As we prepare our hearts in this season of Lent by meditating on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, **think about this:** One definition of betrayal is "to fail." Another is to "violate by unfaithfulness." Don't we betray Jesus if we fail to trust him when he allows challenging circumstances we cannot understand? Don't we betray Jesus when we decide to go our way and choose sin over him? Don't we betray Jesus when we count the cost of following him and then decide it is too hard? We betray Jesus when we go against his plan, law, and revealed will in Scripture. Whenever we choose to walk independently and go our own way, we deny Him.
- ◆ Take time in your group to confess how you have betrayed Jesus, and then pray for one another to remember the gospel.

