

Sermon-Based Community Life Group Study

// May 2, 2021 //

Our desire and goal is for all who call Century Baptist their church home to be involved in a community life group, Bible study or missional community. We believe one of the best ways to be fed and exhorted in our faith is to interact with the Sunday sermon. This guide is a tool to facilitate that interaction.

The purpose of this guide is for all groups, studies and communities to dive into the Sunday message through the study of Scripture together. If you are not in a group, we encourage you to take the step of involvement in community around your faith and the pursuit of faith in Jesus. This study guide can be used individually, however, the greatest benefit of growth in Scripture and faith comes when people are interacting together around Biblical truth and how God is at work in their lives.

Contact Pastor Paul Herr at 223-0478 to learn more about sermon-based community life groups, missional communities, or leading and/or hosting a group.

OPENING UP

Share about a time that you put a little bit of work into something, and got a much bigger return for that work than you expected.

Intro to Walk Like Jesus

In this series, we will be focusing on two critical components of the Christian life: the Word of God and the work of the Kingdom. Jesus centered his ministry on the truth of the Scriptures and task of making disciples. As imitators of Christ, we are to walk in the same way that He walked. We learn a lot about what discipleship is by looking at the life and ministry of Jesus. As a church, we intend to hold fast to the foundation of the Word of God and the priority of making disciples.

Read Matthew 9:35-10:1

What was one point or statement from the message that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

BIG IDEA: Jesus gave us a pattern for investing in a few so we would understand the process of “repairing” and “preparing” our few for the work of ministry. Why a few? Matthew’s narrative in chapter 9 (verses 35-38) of his gospel is interesting. It provides yet another example of how Jesus’ deity was veiled so that His humanity could be fully expressed. Note that the burden Jesus had and the compassion that fueled his mission and even the mission itself is broad and has an impact on All of humanity. Jesus loves us ALL. Jesus is burdened by the sin of us

ALL and the way it separates us ALL from God. And Jesus willingly laid down His life so that ALL of us could have a shepherd. But when it comes to the dispersion of this great news; when it’s time to get into the fields and bring home the harvest Jesus says, “Pray earnestly to the lord of the harvest that he would send laborers into the harvest field.” Why would Jesus not ask everybody to simply pray that the Lord would do the harvesting? He was certainly capable... in His deity. The strategy of investment in a few is a very “human” strategy. We all want to save the world but we are only human. Right? As human beings we are limited by all kinds of things – ability, strength, time, capacity, influence... and the list of limitations could go on and on. But what we can do - in fact, the thing that Jesus did - is to limit our investment to a few, who can invest in a few more, who will invest in a few more...

In order to gain context for today’s study, please read Matthew 9:1-10:1.

What was Jesus teaching about Himself and His mission in verses 9:1-8?

What was Jesus teaching about Himself and His mission in verses 9:9-13?

What was Jesus teaching about the ministry of the disciples in verses 9:14-17?

What was Matthew showing us about Jesus’ compassion in verses 9:18-26?

Why did Jesus tell the two blind men to stay quiet about what Jesus had done (9:27-31)?

Describe the conflict that arose from Jesus healing the man unable to speak in 9:32-34.

According to 9:35, what are the three elements that Jesus centered His ministry around?

How does 9:36 tie in with the overall tone of chapter 9 as a whole?

How do the following verses describe Jesus as a Shepherd?

John 10:1-18
Hebrews 13:20-21
1 Peter 2:25

What does Jesus mean when He refers to the harvest in Matthew 9:37?

How does He want His disciples to pray?

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Matthew 9:35 gives us a clear window into the priorities Jesus had in His ministry. In addition to His teaching and healing, it says that He proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom. This kingdom was not an earthly kingdom, but a spiritual kingdom based on the forgiveness of sin and people's restoration to God. It was good news because it broke the bondage of law-keeping that kept people in their sin. Jesus' death and resurrection shattered the chains of sin that was revealed by the Law and allowed a sinner to receive grace instead of judgment.

PRAYER AND MEMORY VERSE

"And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction." Matthew 9:35 ESV

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Sermon Series:
Walk Like Jesus

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After All

Matthew 9:35-10:1

1. Jesus' burden was for the crowd
2. Jesus' compulsion was his compassion
3. Jesus' strategy was a small collective