

Kingdom Living: The Sermon on the Mount

The Narrow Way and the Fruitful Life

Icebreaker Question: *When have you had to choose between an easier path and a harder one that you knew was the right choice? How did it turn out?*

Leader: You don't have to answer all the questions below. Pick the ones that you think apply more directly to your group or make up your own that you think will help your group grow as disciples of Jesus. Let the Holy Spirit guide your conversation.

1. Understanding the Narrow Way (vv. 13–14)

1. According to Jesus, what makes the narrow road “difficult” and why do you think only a few find it?
 2. Read John 14:6 and Acts 4:12. How do these verses clarify what it means to “enter through the narrow gate”?
 3. What are some modern “wide road” temptations that can pull believers off the narrow way?
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2. Discerning Truth from Error (vv. 15–16)

4. Why do you think false prophets are compared to wolves in sheep's clothing?
 5. Read Acts 17:11. What practices can help us be more like the Bereans when evaluating what we hear or read—even from Christian sources?
 6. Share an example (without naming names) of a teaching or influence that seemed right at first but didn't align with God's Word. What helped you recognize the difference?
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3. Bearing Good Fruit (vv. 17–20)

7. How does Jesus use the analogy of trees and fruit to help us evaluate spiritual health?
 8. Read John 15:4–5. What does it practically look like for you to “remain in Christ” so that you can bear good fruit?
 9. Look at Galatians 5:22–25. Which fruit of the Spirit is God most growing in you right now? Which one do you feel needs the most growth?
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4. Personal Application

10. If someone were to observe your life over the past month, what “fruit” would they most likely see?
 11. What's one intentional step you can take this week to walk more faithfully on the narrow road?
 12. How can our group help each other stay discerning, avoid deception, and keep producing good fruit?
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BASIC GROUP GUIDELINES

Though we call these Basic Group Guidelines, these are also essential in all relationships and environments. These should be observed whether in 1-on-1 conversation or in a group discussion.

- Guidelines give boundaries for people to operate within.
- They help with the flow and pace of the discussions.
- They help us value one another.
- They help people to be more comfortable sharing deep and meaningful things.

Safe Group – This is a safe group. Confidentiality is key, what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment: words, actions, non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk – Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, checking phone, responding to text or email, etc.

Listen – Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone has shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing – We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or share struggles or conviction.

Use "I" Statements – It's easy to talk about the issues of others or respond with "we", "us", "the church". But for us to grow as disciples, and build relationship, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Overtalk – We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship – It's not 'if' conflict or hurt feeling will happen, but 'when'. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to that person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.