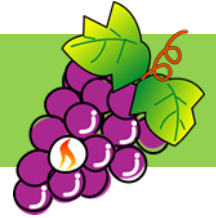




## LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 2nd July 2023



### Matthew 7:15-29 Religion or rely on The Rock?

#### Warm Up

What rituals do we perform in our life (not just Christian stuff)? How do they make us feel? Do they change our life in any way? Could we live without them? Are rituals important in our life?

#### Background and context

Jesus has just finished teaching the Sermon on the Mount and delivers a stark warning to His listeners. Following Him will not be a matter of religious practice but an overhaul of our lifestyle and relationship with God based on self sacrifice and obedience rooted in love. The passage reveals that our whole lives need to be built upon Jesus' teachings.

#### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



**READ Matthew 7:15-29** *What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.*

1. Look at v21-23. How do you feel about this statement? Is Jesus being too harsh?
2. How can we spot a false prophet? (v15) What is the difference between having an alternative interpretation of scripture and being a false prophet?
3. Read Matt 5:1-12. How would you describe a disciple of Jesus based on these verses?
4. Scan through Chapters 5-7 and identify the moral and ethical code that a disciple should build their life upon.
5. How will these teachings, if applied to our lives, help us when the 'storm' hits and our lives are disrupted?
6. What is the difference between following Jesus' teachings and being a disciple?
7. Why do you think so many find discipleship too difficult and fall away?

#### Growing in discipleship: Practical application



8. Which of the teachings in Ch 5-7 do you struggle with (please don't say murder!)? What can you do to become a better disciple?
9. How can you strengthen your relationship with Jesus?
10. Apart from church attendance, how do people know you are a Christian?

#### Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.