Small Group Discussion Guide

Ice Breaker

If you could ask Jesus one question face-to-face, what would it be and why?

Sermon Summary

This sermon explored the dual nature of Jesus as both Savior and Lord—two roles that cannot be separated. Jesus bridged the impossible gap between humanity and God through His death on the cross, fulfilling the curse described in Deuteronomy by being hung on a pole. While many Christians gladly accept Jesus as Savior, fewer fully surrender to Him as Lord. The sermon challenged the unbiblical "third category" of being "saved but not a disciple" and called believers to authentic discipleship through seven key teachings: the Golden Rule, the Greatest Commandment, the Sermon on the Mount, the call to discipleship, loving enemies, rejecting materialism, and doing greater things than Jesus through His church.

Group Questions

1. **What is one thing you got from the sermon?**
2. The sermon mentioned people wanting to do "God-ish" rather than fully following God. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to do "God-ish" instead of complete obedience?
3. Read Luke 9:23. What does it practically look like to "deny yourself and take up your cross daily" in your current season of life?
4. The pastor said Jesus never used the word "Christian" but called people to be "disciples." What's the difference between these two identities, and which one better describes your current relationship with Jesus?
5. Of the seven teachings discussed (Golden Rule, Greatest Commandment, Sermon on the Mount, call to discipleship, love enemies, reject materialism, do greater things), which one

challenges you most? Why?

6. Read Matthew 7:21-23. This is a sobering passage about people who thought they knew Jesus but didn't. What safeguards can we put in place to ensure our faith is genuine and not just religious activity?

7. The sermon described Jesus' second coming as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (Revelation 19:11-16)—very different from the baby in the manger. How does this fuller picture of Jesus impact how you view Him today?

Life Application

The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) was presented as starting in three key areas: home/family, work/school, and church.

This week, choose ONE of these areas and identify ONE specific way you can treat someone the way you want to be treated.

Examples:

- **Home:** Speak to your spouse/children/parents with the same tone you want used with you
- **Work/School:** Go the extra mile for a colleague or classmate the way you'd want someone to help you
- **Church:** Show up for someone going through difficulty the way you'd want others to show up for you

Share your commitment with the group for accountability.

Scripture References

- **Colossians 1:15-20** - The supremacy and fullness of Christ
- **Romans 6:23** - The wages of sin and the gift of God
- **Luke 6:46-49** - Building on the foundation of obedience
- **Matthew 7:12** - The Golden Rule
- **Matthew 22:37-40** - The Greatest Commandment
- **Matthew 5-7** - The Sermon on the Mount
- **Luke 9:23** - The call to discipleship
- **Matthew 5:43-45** - Love your enemies
- **Matthew 19:21** - Reject materialism
- **John 14:12** - Do greater things than Jesus
- **Revelation 19:11-16** - Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords

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Challenge

Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) every day this week. It takes about 12 minutes to read. Rather than rushing through the entire Bible, become a student of Jesus' most concentrated

teaching. Journal one insight each day about what Jesus is calling you to do differently. At the end of the week, identify one specific teaching you will commit to obeying, making Jesus not just your Savior but your Lord in that area of your life.