

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

APPLY // MT 5:17-19; LK 24:25-27, 44-47.

Main Idea: Jesus views and treats the Bible as God's word about him for our joy. We should view and treat the Bible the same way Jesus does.

1. Read Luke 24:25-27, 44-47. Note the context: This is right after Jesus raises from the dead. What's surprising about his actions? Jesus prioritizes the Word over religious experiences. Why do we often want to do the opposite?
2. Read Matthew 5:17-19. In what ways are we tempted to relax God's commands? Why are we tempted to do so?
3. Read John 8:31; 15:9-11. How does submitting to Scripture bring true freedom and joy?

OBSERVE & INTERPRET // JOHN 18:33-38

Main Idea: The Kingdom of Heaven is not of this world.

1. Background: We spent 7 months studying the book of Kings. We saw the kingdom of Israel and several failed kings. All of this points us to the true King, Jesus, and his Kingdom. Through April/May we'll have 4 sermons that explore what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.
2. Read John 18:33-38. What charge is being levied against Jesus? What type of King did the Jewish people want (cf. John 6:15)? Why would they want this type of king?
3. In this passage, does Jesus deny that he is king of the Jews? Does he admit he is king of the Jews? What's significant in how Jesus responds to Pilate?
4. In verse 36...
 - a. What does Jesus mean when he says, "My kingdom is not of this world." What does this statement tell us about Jesus as King and the nature of his Kingdom?
 - b. When Jesus says his servants aren't fighting because his Kingdom isn't of this world, what does this comment tell us about Jesus as King and the nature of his Kingdom?
5. In verse 37...
 - a. Jesus says, he has come "to bear witness to the truth." What is the truth? How does Jesus bear witness to it? How is this related to what Jesus says in verse 36 about his Kingdom?
 - b. Jesus goes on to say, "Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." What does this statement tell us about Jesus as King and the nature of his Kingdom and the people who are a part of his Kingdom?
6. How does Jesus words to Pilate shape our understanding of his mission? How does the cross and resurrection underscore the truths of what Jesus says to Pilate?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Check-in and follow up with one another. How are ya' doing?