



THRIVE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE | FOLLOW

TITLE: THE HEART OF THE MATTER

SCRIPTURE: MARK 7:14-24

One Thing Follow-up

We need to Engage our little faith-remember what we know about God and how he has responded in our lives in the past.

We need to Soften our hearts-Look for the ways he is working in your life. Look for opportunities where he might be using you.

Q. Share which one of the above statements impacted you the most this week.

Opening

As Christians, Scripture is our guide. This means all Scripture, not just the warm and fuzzy parts. Scripture can be hard, convicting. Everything we need to know about God and everything God has to say to Christians can be found on the pages of Scripture.

Series Review

We are continuing our series called "Follow". We will use this series to help us to understand what it means to not only follow Jesus, but to be a true disciple. This series should help us to reexamine what it means to follow Jesus and commit to wherever it leads and whatever it costs.

Review the Message

Have you looked at the state of our country and thought about the way things used to be and longed for a return to those things?

We are more like the Pharisees than we would feel comfortable to admit.

Q. How did your understanding of Pharisees change?

Read Mark 7.6-7

Q. Share a time, if you can, where traditions/practices were important.

Q. Did you feel, or do you now feel, that it affected your worship of God?

Mark 7.14-15

This is a short and quick parable.

Q. Is there anything that challenges you about this parable?

Q. How would this be challenging to a first century Jew?

Read Mark 7.17-18

The disciples just don't get it. We see Jesus correcting their understanding.

Q. What are the disciples not understanding?

Read Mark 7.19-22

The stuff we can see is simply the symptom, it's what's happening on the inside. The real problem is in the heart.

Q. How is Jesus' list a symptom of something happening in the heart? How has this worked in your life?

Reminder about Small Group confidentiality. What is shared in group, stays in the group. Our group should support, encourage, and pray for each other.

Q. What church traditions do you struggle to let go? Why?

Q. It's easy to consider the list of things we've done, or haven't done, for God. We check our boxes and assume we are in good standing. Can you share when you were a "box checker"?

Rules aren't bad, actually they can be very helpful. They are simply a tool. However, we must deal with the real issues.

Q. What have you done to deal with the real issue?

Maybe it's time we focus on being the kind of person whose heart is so in line with the heart of God that we focus on the real issues.

The heart always was, is, and always will be the issue. When we consider the importance of this text we see several important truths.

First, Jesus reveals God's heart.

Q. How does Jesus help us to understand who God is and what he is like?



Second, Jesus gives us new hearts. Read 2 Corinthians 5.17

Q. In what ways are we a new creation?

Q. What is Jesus' role? What is ours?

Q. If this is true, why do we still struggle with our "old" natures?

Third, we fight for our own hearts and our brothers' and sisters' hearts.

Q. How is this statement true?

"Discipleship is the process of becoming who Jesus would be if he were you" - Dallas Willard. It's not about becoming the best rule keepers in town.

**Living It Out
Application**

Q. What is God saying to you through this lesson?

Q. What will you do about it this coming week?

Q. How can we help you?

Prayer:

Q. Are there any specific things we need to pray about or needs to focus on?