WHAT IF JESUS WAS SERIOUS?



8-WEEK STUDY

on the challenging teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount

WEEK 7

Discussion Guide

If Jesus was serious, we don't have to live a life of worry.

Matthew 6:25-34

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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Matthew 6:25-34

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To better understand Jesus' teaching on worry and provision.

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: Name one thing that tends to scare you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Is there a difference between worry and concern? Explain.
- 2. Worry is a sin. It shows a lack of trust in God. Yet, we often hear people say, "Oh, I'm just a worry-wart.", or "I always worry about things.", or "I'm just an anxious person." In what ways do you see our society accepting this as a way of life?
- 3. If God provides our basic needs, why do you think some people not have enough food or shelter?
- 4. Abundance, not scarcity is the mark of God's Kingdom. Why are we still tempted to live as if God's resources and provisions are limited?
- 5. How would you live differently if you truly believed in God's generosity?
- 6. What does seek first His kingdom and His righteousness mean to you? How do you or could you live this out in your daily life?
- 7. Have someone in the group read **Matthew 15:29-39**. What about this story challenges you, inspires you, or makes you think differently about the possibilities of God?
- 8. "The fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Proverbs 9:10) Discuss what this means to you.
- 9. Your Heavenly Father knows what you need before you ask Him (Matthew 6:8). God lavishes love on His children (1 John 3:1). How do these two scriptures bring you peace?
- 10. What is one step you can take to move away from worry, and trust in God's abundance?

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PRAYER

Pray for each other: Have the group pray for each other that God would continue to provide for your needs in a way that allows you to live a life of peace.

Pray for yourself: Pray and ask God to reveal any ways in which you are living in fear of not having enough above trusting the abundant love of your Father,

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that (1) God would reveal Jesus to them, (2) that God would turn their hearts towards Him, (3) that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and (4) that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

Do the following this week: 1) Identify one thing you find yourself worrying about and intentionally stop and turn your worry into prayer; and 2) listen to praise music throughout the week so that God's goodness and provision will flood your heart and mind as you trust Him for all of the needs in your life.

NOTES