



Town + Field

CHURCH

Sunday, May 2

Leader Discussion Guide

Matthew: The Not Normal Kingdom

LIFE CHECK-IN (10 minutes)

Take a few minutes to check-in with your Community, creating space for each person to answer the question below:

- What was a high and what was a low from the last week?
- Where did you see/sense/feel/hear/experience God in that time?

OPENING PRAYER (5-7 minutes)

Spend a few minutes listening for what God might be up to in your group.

TEACHING SUMMARY (2-5 minutes)

This week Pastor Matt continued our sermon series through the book of Matthew called "The Not Normal Kingdom". Take a moment to read Matthew 4:1-11 as a group out loud.

- How would your group summarize the teaching in their own words?
- Or, what stood out to you from the teaching?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (20-30 minutes)

- Read Matthew 4:1. What do you think/feel about the idea of God testing his people?
 - Is your reaction positive or negative and why do you think that is?
 - Where else in the scriptures do you see God's people tested?
- In what area of your life have you been tested to your limits in a way that produced growth? Was it difficult and at the same time worth it?
- God's voice tells Jesus who he is and in context summons him to a life of giving himself away. Perhaps, you have never heard God's voice but think of a time in your life when, at least, it felt like this voice could not have been any louder. Take a few moments to share what this experience was like with the group? How did it impact your life?

- Satan's voice invites Jesus into a quiet cynicism and beckons him to play it safe. Most likely, you have never heard Satan's voice but think of a time in your life when, at least, it felt like this voice could not have been any louder. Take a few moments to share what this experience was like with the group? How did it impact your life?
- Jesus has a set of practices that he organizes his life around in order to help differentiate the voice of life and the voice of truth. These include at least: silence, solitude, fasting, prayer, and scripture. What is your experience of God in these practices?
 - This voice often calls us to forsake what has become normal and surrender to a way of life that requires more faith. Does this resonate with you? Why or why not?
- How do you sense God is inviting you to trust him in new ways?

PRAYER (5-7 minutes)

- Spend a few minutes praying for God's grace over each other, that we might become a people who make Jesus our Lord, and that there might be a sweeping renewal of the Holy Spirit in our city. Ask that God would stir up within us a desire to be with him in prayer and to serve him and our neighbor in love.
- Take a few minutes to quietly remember and pray for your three.

LEADER NOTES

These questions are a guide; feel free to use/exclude ones as people may have already answered the question or talked about the theme OR if your group takes a long time to tackle one particular theme it's ok to skip over questions in the interest of time/focus.