



# INSPI[RED]

the words of Jesus

## **The Week of August 23, 2020 What Does Jesus Say About Us? Group Discussion Questions**

We need the Great Physician (Jesus) to heal us of the heart and vision problems we have

### **Intro Questions**

- Give an example of someone that gave you advice and, as much as you hated it, it turned out to be right.
- Have you ever chosen to ignore sound advice and “follow your heart”? How did it go?
- It is human nature to become defensive when someone points out something that we need to change. Why do you think that is?
  - Can you share a time when you became defensive or prideful when the Holy Spirit has shown you an area where you need to change?

### **We Have a Heart Condition**

- Read Mark 7:20-23

Then He said, “What comes out of a person – that defiles him. For from within, out of people’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immoralities, thefts, murders, adulteries, greed, evil actions, deceit, promiscuity, stinginess, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a person.”
- Why does Jesus say the heart is so unreliable?
- Read Psalm 37:4

Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you your heart’s desires.
- How do we get what our hearts truly desire?
- The culture around us tries to appeal to our “heart’s desires.” Name some ads you’ve seen recently that do this.
- When we follow our own heart’s desires and not what God wants for us, we end up settling for a lesser life- and it often happens in small steps that we don’t immediately notice. Have you ever found yourself in a place where you had drifted far from God’s will for you?

## We have a Vision Problem

- Share a funny story about a time you thought you were presenting yourself one way, but everyone else saw something else.
- Read Matthew 7:21-27

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord!’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father in heaven. On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in Your name, drive out demons in Your name, and do many miracles in Your name?’ Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you! Depart from Me, you lawbreakers!’

“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and doesn’t act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. And its collapse was great!”

- Is it easier to identify your own problems or the problems of others?
  - Can someone truly see themselves for who they really are or do they need Jesus’s help?
  - Read Matthew 7:13-14
- “Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.
- When given the choice between easy and hard, what do we tend to pick? Why?

## Watch YouTube Clip

- Suggested Prayer to close with:

Dear Jesus, help us to see ourselves clearly. Show us the truth about our standing before you and give us the courage to give everything over to you. Amen.

### Going Deeper

Read 2 Samuel 11 & 12, then read Psalms 51 for David’s prayer following his sin.

Prayerfully read the whole Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7.

# Keep It Going

Resources to keep growing and learning this week.

- Learn more about following Jesus at [icelebration.org/next-steps](http://icelebration.org/next-steps)
- Read the 5-Day Devotional [Enemies of the Heart by Andy Stanley](#) on YouVersion
- Review the sermon at [youtube.com/celebrationbaptist](https://youtube.com/celebrationbaptist)
- Read the sermon manuscript at [icelebration.org/inspired](http://icelebration.org/inspired)

## Spiritual Self-Assessment

- You have an appointment with the Great Physician this week!  

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Examine yourselves. Or do you yourselves not recognize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless you fail the test. -2 Corinthians 13:5
- If you were to sit down with Jesus the way you would sit down with a good doctor, what would He say about your spiritual condition- measured not against your own standards, but against His standards?
- Jesus told us to look at the fruit of our life to see if we're really following Him.
  - Are you practicing Godly behavior?
  - Is your speech pure?
  - Are you making moral choices?
  - Are you forgiving others as God forgave you?
- Does your life look different from unbelievers around you? If you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?