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**Chapter 7 Study Guide: Jesus Trains His Disciples**

1. Is there anything in this week’s reading that you want to discuss?
2. What stuck out to you from the teaching?
3. This chapter begins with the religious leaders questioning Jesus in an effort to trap and discredit Him (pg. 114). Why do you think they were so intent on discrediting Jesus? How do people attempt to discredit Him today?
4. In response to their questions, Jesus points out their hypocrisy which was prophesied long ago by Isaiah. The Pharisees and experts of the law justified disobeying God’s real commands (honor your Father and Mother) by following human traditions of the day (pg. 115). Why do you think people often look for rationalizations and loopholes to avoid doing the right thing?
5. Why do you think Jesus wasn’t as concerned about offending the Pharisees as His disciples were (pg. 115)? What lessons can we learn from Jesus’ example?
6. What does Jesus mean when He says, “What defiles a person is not what goes into the mouth; it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles a person.” (pg. 115-116)?
7. During a meeting with the Syrophoenician woman, Jesus calls her faith great (pg. 117). What characteristics make her faith so great (pg. 117)? How can we learn to have faith like this?
8. In HIS Story we’ve learned that the message behind the miracle is even greater than the miracle itself. The people in the Decapolis region were completely astounded when Jesus healed a deaf man who had trouble speaking (pg. 118). What message do you think Jesus is trying to send when He healed this man?
9. Jesus miraculously feeds a large group of people for a second time (this time 4,000 – pg. 118-119). How can we learn to have the same amount of compassion for people that Jesus did?
10. Jesus blesses Peter for proclaiming the truth about His identity – that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (pg. 121). What are some different opinions that people in our world today have about who Jesus is? How would you answer someone who asked, “Who is Jesus to you?”
11. Jesus places a radical condition on discipleship when He calls His followers to lose their lives in order to gain eternal life. He also spells out very heavy consequences for not doing so (pg. 122). What celebrities recently seem to have “gained the whole world” yet lost or forfeited their very selves? In what specific ways do you need to learn to “lose your life” for Jesus?
12. Jesus reveals His glory to Peter, James, and John as He is transfigured before them on the mountain (pg. 122-123). If you had been present during Jesus’ transfiguration, how do you think you would have reacted?
13. When Jesus comes down off the mountain, he meets a father who desperately wants his son to be healed (pg. 124-125). How do you relate to his statement, “I do believe; help my unbelief!”?
14. What does Jesus say we must do if a person sins (pg. 127-128)? What is the hardest part about following this particular command?
15. Jesus tells a powerful story about forgiveness at the end of the chapter (pg. 129-130). What do you like about this story? What challenges you? Is there anyone you need to forgive “from your heart” right now?