



Prepare: If you heard the sermon, do you have any questions or insights to share?

Discuss*

1. Take some time as you get started and try to list some things that you, as a group, think are essential to being a Christian. It can be certain beliefs, actions, ideas, practices, etc. To be a little more existential, what is the essential essence of a Christian?
2. Read Luke 14: 15-24 and Luke 14:25-33. In what ways do you see Jesus contrasting salvation (being a Christian) with being a disciple? What are some of the differences between the call to "come" and the call to be a disciple?
3. Discuss the idea of a bounded set versus a centered set. Would you describe your life of faith in terms of a bounded set or in terms of a centered set? Let's take some time and be real here. Both ideas or sets are necessary for the life of faith. So, if you view your life of faith as a bounded set offer some examples of how you live this concept out. Do the same if you view your life of faith in terms of a centered set. If you do not view your life of faith in either regard, be honest and share that too. This group is the safest place you will ever find to move into the life of faith in Christ and you can do that now!
4. Think about the example of living in a foreign country as an American. As a citizen of heaven, what are some practical ways that you bring "home" into your life here? What are some areas that you find difficult to bring "home" into? That is, where are you struggling to let go of the kingdom of the world and live into the kingdom of God? Maybe it is thoughts, mindsets, judgmentalism, actions, desires, focus, etc.
5. Read Matthew 4:17. Feel free to read other verses around it to get the context. Now, imagine yourself as a person hearing this sermon live. What do you think you might interpret Jesus to mean if you were a first century Palestinian Jew? As someone in America today, what do you think He means when He says the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand?
6. Think about the word "repent" in this brief sermon. The Greek word for "repent" is *metanoia*. It means to change one's mind. To think differently. Discuss what Jesus might have been telling people to think differently about. Do not remove the rest of the message (the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand) from the discussion. We must reconcile the two statements in context.

**Use these questions to guide your discussion. Don't feel like you have to go through all of them and make sure you take time to talk through any questions and observations from the group.*