



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“The Narrow Gate” (Matthew 7:13-14)**

Date: **February 24, 2019**

Without the righteousness of God, you will never inherit the kingdom of God. This theme of righteousness has come up on several occasions throughout this series in the Sermon on the Mount. Last week, we looked at the Golden Rule and how it is the summary of the Law and the Prophets. If you want to live a righteous life, then do to others what you would have them do to you. Ultimately, we were reminded that Jesus triumphs where we fall short. Jesus lived a life that was perfectly obedient to the Golden Rule, purchasing our righteousness through his life, death, and resurrection. And through our union with him he gives us the power to pursue righteousness and abide by these teachings in the Sermon on the Mount. In this week’s study, we will learn that the Christian life is a difficult life that is full of trial, hardship, and persecution. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus refers to the Christian walk as a narrow gate and openly states, “...the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” A life in pursuit of Christ and his righteousness entails difficult decisions, sacrifice, and pain but in the end it’s worth it. Because it leads to life!

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 7:13-14 and ensure that you’ve listened to Sunday’s sermon.
 - a. In verse 13, Jesus tells us to “enter by the narrow gate.” What does he mean by this? Explain the phrase “narrow gate.”
 - b. Compare and contrast the narrow gate & hard path with the wide gate & easy path.
 - c. Jesus says that the wide gate is “easy”. What does he mean by this? Why is it easy?
 - d. On the other hand, the way that leads to life is “hard” (v. 14). Why is it hard?
 - e. Why is it that “few” find the narrow gate (v. 14)? Why is it so hard for people to enter through the narrow gate?
 - f. What is the end of each path? Why is it important to know and understand what is waiting for us at the end of each path?



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- g. How do we know what path we are on? How can we be sure that we are on the narrow path?

- h. What role does Jesus play in entering through the narrow gate and then staying on the narrow road? Why is it important to constantly cling to Christ and his gospel on the narrow road?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?

2. What makes the road that leads to destruction an “easy” one to walk? What makes the narrow road a “hard” one to walk?

3. What are some ways that your faith in Christ has cost you and/or lead to suffering and hardship?

4. Why is going down the narrow road worth it? Why is it important to go through life with an eternal perspective, remembering that the road we’re on leads to life? How can we do this?

5. When the narrow road is hard and difficult, what can we do to persevere through hardships? What role does Christ play in our perseverance on the narrow road? Use Scripture to support your answers.

6. How should a passage like this inform how we share the gospel of Jesus Christ with unbelievers?