

GBC Discipleship RESOURCE



The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

Week 05 | Kingdom Conclusions (Matthew 13:47-52)

For a brief overview of why (and how) to engage in each of these practices, you can read the Guideline For Growing on our website.

<https://www.gyneaabaptist.org.au/growing/pages/guideline-for-growing>

What is a Discipleship Menu?

A discipleship menu is a selection of discipleship activities to engage in to continue the conversation that begins on Sunday throughout the week. The aim is to extend our interaction as a community of faith around activities that help us follow Jesus every single day. The activities vary from week to week (though there are some standard activities) and you are encouraged to do as many as you find helpful (like a menu; you don't need to eat everything on it!). Do them on your own (God and you), with a couple of friends (you and a few), or in a Life Group (you and a crew). The important thing is to do a few!

GBC Sermon Podcast and GBC Big Three Podcast

Don't forget you can review this week's sermon on the GBC Sermon Podcast. The sermon is usually uploaded by Monday afternoon. You can also listen in to the GBC Big Three podcast; a weekly podcast where Matt, Jess, and Marc sit down and continue the conversation by engaging in three big questions raised by the congregation about the sermon. The GBC Big Three comes out on Wednesdays.

Overview

A good conclusion is one that draws from the journey you've been on, the information you've explored and provides clear, succinct decisions. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus has been unfolding a greater picture of what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. Each parable providing a new piece of the mysterious puzzle. Within the parable of the net, Jesus draws from all he has shared to make some big kingdom conclusions.

Like the net that is cast out to catch all kinds of fish, so too does the reach of the Kingdom transcend all that divides. The kingdom of Heaven has not been described as a place, to arrive at, but rather it is always described as something sent out, that reaches out, and stretches across barriers and divisions. We need only look at the people Jesus meets, to know that these are not merely words, but a way life.

Jesus also speaks of the rule of the King, who reigns over His heavenly kingdom. He is a merciful judge, who convicts through the prompting of His Holy Spirit. It is Him who imparts divine judge, not humanity. Finally, Jesus calls us, has kingdom citizens into the role that has been planned for us. We need to be a people always hungry for more of the mysterious, more of the obscure. When we say yes, we understand the mysterious, we comprehend the obscure, we do not leave room to constantly grow, to be open to mystery,

to be surprised by revelation. We need to utilise both old and new items that we have stored up. Celebrating what has come before and seeking out what we have yet found.

Passages to Read

We believe that the Word of God is living and active and that reading and reflecting on it is one way we encounter God. As you read, we encourage people to ask a set of simple questions: What stands out to you? What questions do you have? What is the invitation of God to you? Who can you tell?

The reading this week are the parables that we have been exploring throughout this series. Matthew 13:1-52. Re-read these parables. You can do it in one sitting or read each parable across a number of days. Reflect on the lessons that you've learnt throughout this series and seek out the new treasures that you have yet found. Open yourself to the Holy Spirit, that you might see the old and the new in the teachings of Jesus.

Old Treasures Within Our Storehouse

This parable invites us to remember what treasures we have found, as well as what mysteries we have yet to uncover. Take some time to remember key moments, lessons, experiences, or relationships that God has used to shape your faith and expose you to His great presence. Write them down and spend some time marvelling and praising God for the work He has done in your life.

A Prayer to Pray

Spend some time in prayer, reflecting on the cost of following Jesus. Bring those things to the front of your mind and ask the Holy Spirit to transform

your perspective of them, that you only see the gain of the Kingdom rather than the price to be paid.