

Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, January 26th, 2025

Series: **“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

Message: **“Imitating Jesus”**

1. In **1 Cor. 10:23**, what is Paul trying to communicate to the Corinthians and to us?

2. Read **1 Cor. 10:24**. Is it wrong to seek things for ourselves?

How can our own desires get in the way of carrying out God’s purpose for us?

3. Read **1 Cor. 10:25**. Why would this verse have disagreed with the thinking of most Jews?

4. Read **1 Cor. 10:26**. How might this verse help people make better sense of **1 Cor. 25**?

5. Read **1 Cor. 10:27**. How might eating dinner with an unbeliever help that person better receive our message about Jesus?

What phrase in this verse tells us we aren’t required to eat with an unbeliever unless we really want to?

6. Read **1 Cor. 10:28**. If **1 Cor. 10:25** is true, (And it is!), why would we disregard its message to do something contrary to it, as commanded in **1 Cor. 10:28**?

7. Read **1 Cor. 10:29-31**. What Paul says in **verses 29 & 30** seems rather confusing. How does **v. 31** help to clear up that confusion?

8. Read **1 Cor. 10:32-33**. For what reason does Paul willingly *not seek his own advantage*?

9. Read **1 Cor. 11:1**. Why should we be willing to imitate Paul?

10. Read **Ephesians 4:32-5:2**. Name three virtues an imitator of Christ (or God) ought to display toward other people? (Hint: See **Eph. 4:32**.)

11. What will you most remember from this message?

Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Psalm 118:19-24** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. In **Ps. 118:19**, what is the psalmist talking about when he refers to the *gates of righteousness*?
 2. What did Jesus do that allows us to access these gates whenever we want?
 3. Read **Ps. 118:20** aloud again. Then, turn to **John 10:7** and read it aloud. (Make sure someone reads the NIV translation aloud.) How does Jesus literally serve as the *gate of righteousness* for those who believe in Him?
 4. Read **Ps. 118:21**. How does Jesus answer the psalmist's prayer in **Ps. 118:19** to become *his salvation*?
 5. In **Ps. 118:22**, to whom did *the stone* refer? How did the *builders reject this stone*?
 6. What did this *stone* become? Read **Ephesians 2:19-21**. What was the significance of a cornerstone in building? How did Jesus fulfill that function in our faith?
 7. When **Ps. 118:22 & 23** are considered together, why is this *marvelous in our eyes*?
 8. If we really did what **Ps. 118:24** says, what might we notice about our daily lives?
- II. Next read **Matthew 9:35-38**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. In **Matthew 9:35**, what do we learn about Jesus's ministry?
 2. What was *the gospel of the kingdom*?
 3. In **Matthew 9:36**, why did Jesus have compassion on the crowd?
 4. When the people are referred to as *sheep without a shepherd*, who did the missing shepherds represent?
 5. In **Matthew 9:37-38**, is Jesus instructing us to merely pray for more workers in the harvest? What is he also hoping we would do?
- III. Now read **1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. In **1 Cor. 10:23**, what is Paul trying to communicate to the Corinthians and to us?
 2. Read **1 Cor. 10:24**. Is it wrong to seek things for ourselves? How can our own desires get in the way of carrying out God's purpose for us?

3. Read **1 Cor. 10:25**. Why would this verse have disagreed with the thinking of most Jews?
4. Read **1 Cor. 10:26**. How might this verse help people make better sense of **1 Cor. 25**?
5. Read **1 Cor. 10:27**. How might eating dinner with an unbeliever help that person better receive our message about Jesus? What phrase in this verse tells us we aren't required to eat with an unbeliever unless we really want to?
6. Read **1 Cor. 10:28**. If **1 Cor. 10:25** is true, (And it is!), why would we disregard its message to do something contrary to it, as commanded in **1 Cor. 10:28**?
7. Read **1 Cor. 10:29-31**. What Paul says in **verses 29 & 30** seems rather confusing. How does **v. 31** help to clear up that confusion?
8. Read **1 Cor. 10:32-33**. For what reason does Paul willingly *not seek his own advantage*?
9. Read **1 Cor. 11:1**. Why should we be willing to imitate Paul?
10. Read **Ephesians 4:32-5:2**. Name three virtues an imitator of Christ (or God) ought to display toward other people? (Hint: See **Eph. 4:32**.)