

Small Groups

SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE
ORDINARY TIME – Week 4
June 9th, 2023

DIGGING IN:

1. When it comes to the church calendar that was shown on Sunday, why would it be important to have “Ordinary Time”?
2. If someone were to ask you, “What are you called to do? And who are you called to be?” What would be your answer?

MAKING IT REAL:

Throughout the New Testament, Jesus continuously gets asked who he is. Matthew 11 is no different. Here, the disciples of John the Baptist ask if Jesus was the longed for Messiah. However, their definition of what the “Messiah” was there to do was different than the mission of Jesus. They expected the Messiah to free them from their earthly Roman occupation, where Jesus was there to free humanity from spiritual captivity to sin.

1. When we approach God through prayer what lens do we view Him through? Are our life, struggles, and hardship the center of our prayer times?
2. How might we need to shift our focus to align with God’s mission?

Read Matthew 11:25-30

1. What comes to mind when you think of a yoke? What is it’s purpose?
In scripture, a yoke is generally referenced in prophetic literature. In these passages, mention of a yoke usually referred to Israel about to go into exile and experience the yoke of slavery. Other places in scripture refer to the Law being a yoke, one that was heavy to carry.
2. With this in mind, how do you think Jesus’ original audience would have felt hearing Him describe a new kind of yoke?

3. Another purpose of a yoke was to teach a young oxen how to plow. Often farmers would hook an experienced ox and a young ox up to the same yoke. As the experienced oxen worked the field, the young oxen would also learn what to do as well. Keeping this in mind, reflect on the following quote by Frederick Dale Bruner...

“A yoke is not a sitting instrument; it is a walking instrument. Jesus doesn’t say ‘take my chair and learn from me;’ He says, ‘take my yoke and learn from me.’ Which means that as we seek to live in obedience to Jesus we learn from Jesus along the way.”

3. What burdens do I find myself carrying today? In this moment?
4. How do I feel carrying them? (weary, burdened, rested...)
5. What burdens does God be ask me to carry?
6. What may God be asking me to set down and entrust to Him?
7. Is there anything that may make this difficult to do? Why?

Remember, no matter what burdens we may be carrying or experiencing, Jesus offers us something better. “Jesus isn’t offering a way out, He’s offering Himself.” Are we willing to set down our burdens in order to better embrace Him?

PRAYER IDEAS

1. Lord God, would you open our hearts & minds by the power of your Holy Spirit that we may hear your word with joy and respond as you would lead us to?
2. As we go throughout our week, Lord, would you reveal any burden we are carrying that perhaps we were never asked to carry?
3. Holy Spirit, would you give us vision to see You, Your mission, & help us to set our own aside, in order to better embrace the life you’ve called us to.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Red Couch Theology Podcast

If you or group members have questions around parts of the sermon that are not included in the discussion guide, it’s always helpful to listen to *Red Couch Theology*, where Alex and Aaron talk about the sermon and answer questions that come in from people in the congregation. <https://guysdrinkingtea.podbean.com/>