

Discussion Guide: The Gospel of Matthew - What Defiles a Person

For group discussion to be fruitful and engaging for everyone in your group, make sure that your discussion groups are not larger than 4 people. If possible, break up into groups of 2 or 3.

Larger Group: (5 minutes)

- Welcome everyone
- Introduce the direction for the evening.

Smaller Groups: (20-25 minutes)

Give the following instructions and break into small groups (2-3 people).

Break into small groups and have everyone turn to Matthew 15:1-20

After having someone read the passage please use the following questions in the following way.

- Read the question.
- Have each person respond to the question by going around the circle giving space for discussion and questions around each person's response.

Discussion questions:

1. How would you retell or summarize this passage? (Understanding)
2. What is God saying to me through these verses? (Listening)
3. How will I respond to what God is saying to me? (Obeying and next step of faith)
4. How can we help one another to take our next steps?

(Pray and minister with each person after they answer #3 rather than the whole group at once)

Larger Group:

Return to larger group to give summary of your discussion in smaller groups then (5-10 minutes)

Allow time to pray for the lost, end with B.L.E.S.S. (10-15 minutes)

Where are group members in the B.L.E.S.S. process? Model for them how to answer briefly, for example:

"I'm praying for _____".

"I have been having good conversations with _____".

"I'm having lunch with _____
on _____ (day of the week)."

Closing prayer - (2-5-minutes)