

## Wednesday

Read: **Matthew 7:15-20** *Whom to hear?*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Have you ever been taken in by a false prophet? What happened?*
2. *What might be a bad fruit in your life?*

**Prayer Focus** Teacher, you showed us what a true prophet looks like and how we can guard against following those who are false. Help us to filter what we hear and see through the truth of you and your example.

## Thursday

Read: **Matthew 7:21-23** *What to say to God?*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How can false prophets throw us off track in our faith lives?*
2. *What does Jesus want us to do in order for him to say he knows us?*

**Prayer Focus** It's so easy sometimes to just go through the motions and pose as your true followers, Jesus, and skip living our lives in you. Teach us again to look past all our poses, to look to you first, and then to act to live in your ways.

## Friday

Read: **Matthew 7:24-29** *Where should we build?*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How can we build our lives on a solid foundation?*
2. *Why do you think Jesus' listeners believed he had true, genuine authority?*

**Prayer Focus** We see that building our lives on anything or anyone but you, Light of the World, will result in an epic fail. We commit again today to listen for your voice of true authority, hearing in it your honesty, kindness, and wisdom. We pray for your help in living under that authority, every day.

## *Living into the Kingdom*

**Pastor's message: Matthew 7:6-29**

**Message Notes:**



## Small Group Format

### Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What was the highest point of this past week for you? Why was it so good?*

### Opening Prayer

### Song (optional)

### Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Matthew 7:6-29**

- Discuss observations about the text
  - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
  - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

*Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)*

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

### Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

### Pray for each other

### Refreshments (optional)

## LIVING INTO THE KINGDOM May 12, 2024

### Monday

**Read: Matthew 7:6-11** *What is holy? What to ask?*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What do you consider to be holy?*
2. *Do you believe that everyone who asks will receive what they ask for?*

**Prayer Focus** Only you are holy, Creator God. You truly listen when we call to you, and you are our faithful provider. Thank you for hearing us, seeing us, and giving us what you know will meet our needs. Thank you for being the God who shows your love to everyone.

### Tuesday

**Read: Matthew 7:12-14** *What leads to life?*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does Jesus say the Golden Rule (v. 12) is connected to the law and the prophets?*
2. *Why is it important for us to strive rather than achieve the narrow gate?*

**Prayer Focus** Jesus, you pointed back to our ancestors who first heard the truth and who passed down your law to us. We see you and hear you because your truth has been with us since Creation. Help us to strive to stay in your lane—the lane that leads to vital, abundant life.