

# Small Group Questions

## Sermon Based Small Groups – October 16, 2011

Adult Education – Woodbury Community Church  
Woodbury, Minnesota

Sermon Title: Discipleship Isn't A Game  
Sermon Series: The Sermon on the Mount: Living as Citizens in the Kingdom  
of Heaven

Notes:

**Pray:** Each week, we want to take time to lift up one another's prayer concerns. True Christians pray for one another. Take some time at the beginning of your small group time to pray for each other. Be real with each other. If you are hurting, take the risk and share how you are feeling with the group. If you have something that God has blessed you with this week, share it. Give Him the glory for what He is doing in your life. Record the prayer requests in the "Notes" section on the right of this page, and make a commitment to pray for the needs of the people in your group throughout the week.

**Opening Questions:** What was your favorite game to play as a child? What about today? Does your family have any traditional games that you like to play together?

**Read:** I think if Jesus were alive today, He might take the time to play games. They would probably be games that fostered conversation, and helped people get to know one another better. But, when it comes to our spiritual lives, Jesus doesn't play games. Read Matthew 7:21-23.

**Discuss:** What do you think it means for Jesus to be Lord of your life?

What is the difference between the people Jesus described in Matthew 7:21 and the people who truly confess Jesus as Lord, whom Paul describes in Romans 10:9, 10?

**Read:** Proverbs 30:11-14. How do the people described in verse 12 relate to Matthew 7:21?

**Discuss:** There are many who will stand before God someday and hear, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!" (Matthew 7:23). Read the following verses and describe what they tell us about such people.

- Matthew 24:24

## **The Sermon on the Mount Discipleship Isn't A Game**

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- 2 Thessalonians 2:8, 9

**Read:** Matthew 7:24-27

**Discuss:** Why do you suppose that Jesus chose to use the illustration of a man building his house on the rock or sand in this instance?

Thinking in the context of the entire Sermon on the Mount, what are some ways that you can build your life upon the Rock?

What are some examples of, “the rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house,” that you have experienced in your life?

How have you successfully dealt with such times in your life?

**Read:** Kent Hughes provides the following commentary for the storms that Jesus speaks of: *Jesus says that the storms will reveal whether we have the true foundation or not. His primary reference here is to the final judgment because in the Old Testament and elsewhere in Jewish writings the storm serves as a symbol for God's judgment (see, for example, Ezekiel 13:11b). The storm can also refer to life's difficulties. Sometimes a gracious, dark, hurtling storm hits the house on the sand, and its owner finds out that he is lacking. How tragic to find this out only in the final judgment. Many will cry, "Lord, Lord" from beneath the rubble of their life's house, and he will say, "I never knew you." How tragic!*<sup>1</sup>

**Discuss:** How does this explanation of the storm impact you? How can we help people build their house on the solid Rock?

**Read and Discuss:** Matthew 7 ends with a beautiful reaction to Jesus' teaching. What has amazed you about Jesus in these 33 weeks that we have spent studying His greatest sermon?

**Pray:** As you pray this week, ask God build your life upon the Rock. Take time to examine your heart. Are you a genuine disciple of Jesus? If not, ask Him to forgive you. Tell Him how much you need Him. Give your life to Him as Savior and Lord.

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<sup>1</sup> Kent Hughes, *The Sermon on the Mount: The Message of the Kingdom* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001), p. 258.