



SERIES: Tipping the Scales

Group Guide Week 4 (for the week of April 11th)

SERIES OVERVIEW:

There's a big difference between knowing about Jesus and actually knowing Jesus. What makes the difference? Experience. As unbelievable as it sounds, Jesus' desire is to be involved with us, to know us, to guide us, to care for us out of love for us. No one knew this better than a man named Peter. In our first series after Easter, we will take a deep dive into one day that settled a few things for Peter things that if left unresolved could have cost him everything. And, our hope is it will settle a few things for us as well. Join us as we investigate a little more about Jesus, the one who tips the scales.

Big Idea: Even when we think it's settled, Jesus moves in to love.

Scripture: Matthew 17:24-27 (ESV) , Matthew 6:25-29 (ESV) , John 21:18 (ESV), John 14:1-3 (NLT)

WEEK 1 RECAP:

If you missed Sunday's message here is WEEK ONE RECAP:

There's almost nothing more dangerous than an honest question with dishonest motives. Commonly called a trap, they are often best laid by the most religious among us. This practice has a long and ancient history even reaching all the way back to the time of Jesus. At the end of a long day's journey, a man named Peter found himself cornered, interrogated about Jesus and his participation in taxes. As ill-intentioned as this question was, Jesus used it to grow Peter in unexpected ways. Jesus tipped the scales.

TWO MAIN WORDS

- Balance
- Measurement

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. If you had to describe yourself with only 3 adjectives what would they be?
2. What are 3 adjectives that people use to describe you? Be honest here, these can be negative or positive- just the first three that come to mind.
3. How would your life look different if you actually had the answer to these questions?
 - a. What's Jesus like?
 - b. What is he asking you to do?
 - c. Have you tried it?
4. Read Matthew 17:24-27
We've heard "Knowing about Jesus, and knowing Him are two different things".
 - a. Who is Jesus to you?
 - b. If you were asked a difficult question about what you think Jesus believes about a specific topic, how would you answer?
5. Can someone give a specific example of being asked a "religious" question, regardless if it was a trap about who Jesus? (This could be political, religious, current world culture..etc.)
6. It's very easy to get caught up in controversial conversations, especially involving those with who we are as Christians- what are some ways we can respond in love even when we don't **know** the answers?
7. How can we respond to the questions we get that maybe we feel we know the answers to, but realize either way the questions are asked to trap us?

TAKE AWAY & ACTION ITEMS:

- **Even when we think something is settled, Jesus is willing to move in to love.**
- **Listen to his questions & Do what he says**
- **Jesus is relational.** Matthew 17:24-27
- **Knowing about him and knowing him are two different things.**
- **Jesus provides.** Matthew 6:25-29
- **Jesus prepares.** John 21:18

RESOURCES used on Sunday:

- When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, “Does your teacher not pay the tax?” He said, “Yes.” And when he came into the house, **Jesus spoke to him first**, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?” And when he said, “From others,” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are free. However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself.” Matthew 17:24-27 (ESV)
- “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Matthew 6:25-29 (ESV)
- Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” John 21:18 (ESV)
- “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.” John 14:1-3 (NLT)