



**SERIES: Tipping the Scales**

**Group Guide Week 2** (for the week of April 18th)

**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:** Discerning where, when, and why Jesus chooses to offend.

**Scripture:** Matthew 17:24-27

## **WEEK 2 RECAP:**

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

With all the distractions that surround us, how do we know which battles to take on and which ones to let pass by? If God knows who we are and what we are built for, how do we best trust him with what's in front of us? This week, Jesus shows us through his instructions to Peter how he prefers to teach us, what he's up to, and how he makes us ready for what matters most. In week two of our series Tipping the Scales, we will dive deeper into the incredible day Peter was questioned by the religious and cared for by his teacher.

### **Two reasons why It can be hard to think about growing, especially spiritually:**

- Our experiences with ourselves
- Our experiences with others

## **GROUP DISCUSSION:**

1. **Two things hold us back from growth: Experiences with Ourselves and Others.**  
What are some experiences, past or present, that you feel typically hold people, or yourself, back from growth?
2. Ben stated "Our culture has disguised asking "me" questions with "we" questions." This means the question is centered around how a certain thing benefits oneself, rather than the world around us.
  - a. Can you list some examples of this?
  - b. Is this something you have found yourself doing?
3. How can we know what battles to choose to fight in order to grow?
4. What are some battles that you stepped into, regardless of knowing if they were worth it or not, recently? These can be big or small.
5. We re-read Matthew 17:24-27 to focus on how Jesus responds to unnecessary battles: *"Hey let's not offend them, right now. We're free from this tax, but go ahead and give it to them to avoid the fight."*
  - a. Why do you think Jesus chose not to "offend" the religious, even though he knew he didn't have to pay?
  - b. Why do you think Jesus chose to offend the religious or proud in other circumstances in the bible?
6. Ben stated that "God is willing to offend the religious to save the lost and doesn't care about his reputation while doing so"
  - a. What if God is trying to grow the other person that is trying to come into battle with you just as he has grown you?

- b. How can we respond to these unnecessary battles, now knowing that God may be using you to grow the other person?
7. A formula for choosing the right battles looks like: Correct Information + Consistent Practice = Hearing God's Voice
  - a. How do we seek the correct information to be better prepared for the Right and the Wrong battles?
  - b. What does consistent practice entail?
  - c. What are some ways you hear God's voice when making these hard decisions?
8. "We're built for the RIGHT battles, we're baited into the wrong ones" is a powerful statement.
  - a. What are some feelings that prove a battle is, or is not worth the fight?
  - b. How can we, as a small group, help each other choose which battles to engage in? (ultimately- we must submit the battle to God, and ask him to help us, in whatever way He wants us to- not what feels right.)

#### TAKE AWAY & ACTION ITEMS:

- too many answers, not enough questions.
- In the moment, it's hard to measure what matters most.
- Shame drives, but it does not develop.
- Jesus was willing to offend the religious to reach the lost.
- You don't know what Jesus may be doing in another person's life.
- We're built for the right battles, we're baited into the wrong ones.
- We must Submit the battle and allow God to help us choose

#### RESOURCES used on Sunday:

- "The main challenge to building a clear sense of purpose is that the world is cluttered with noise, distraction, and endless alternative purposes." *Daniel Coyle, Culture Code*
- 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)