

Responding to Jesus: Small Group Guide

May 31, 2026

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when you missed an important notification or message. How did you feel when you realized you'd missed it? What were the consequences?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **We live in a world of constant notifications**, but the most important message we can respond to is Jesus knocking at the door of our hearts (Revelation 3:20).
 2. **Jesus doesn't give up on us** when we miss His message or fail to respond immediately—He keeps reaching out with grace and mercy.
 3. **People respond to Jesus in different ways:** secretly (like Nicodemus), in desperation (like the thief on the cross), with questions (like the Ethiopian), or through life-changing circumstances (like the Philippian jailer).
 4. **The Romans Road to Salvation:**
 - Everyone has sinned (Romans 3:23)
 - The penalty of sin is death (Romans 6:23a)
 - Christ died for us while we were still sinners (Romans 5:8)
 - Salvation is a free gift (Romans 6:23b)
 - We must believe and confess (Romans 10:9, 13)
 5. **Responding to Jesus is an ongoing journey**, not just a one-time decision.
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. **The pastor mentioned several reasons we don't respond to notifications:** message overload, busyness, forgetting, and avoidance. Which of these do you relate to most when it comes to responding to God's call in your life?
2. **In the painting "The Light of the World,"** there's no outside doorknob—only the person inside can open the door. What does this teach us about our relationship with Jesus? Why doesn't God force His way into our hearts?
3. **Four different responses to Jesus were shared:** Nicodemus (secretly seeking), the thief on the cross (last-minute belief), the Ethiopian (seeking understanding), and the Philippian jailer (crisis conversion). Which story resonates most with your faith journey? Why?

Personal Reflection

4. **The sermon stated: "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).** How does it change your perspective to know that Jesus loved you and died for you even at your worst moment?
5. **What obstacles keep people from responding to Jesus?** The pastor mentioned:
 - Fear of messing up after making a commitment
 - Judging others who seem hypocritical
 - Feeling too old or too young
 - Fear of public professionHave any of these obstacles affected you or someone you know? How can we overcome them?
6. **The pastor said, "Responding to Jesus is an ongoing journey."** How have you continued to respond to Jesus since your initial decision to follow Him? What areas is He calling you to respond to right now?

Application and Action

7. **If someone in this group asked, "What do I have to do to be saved?"** (like the Philippian jailer), how would you explain the gospel using the Romans Road? Practice explaining it in your own words.
8. **The purpose of the church is to be a witness for Jesus.** What are practical ways you can:
 - Be more open about your faith with friends or family?
 - Invite someone to church or a faith conversation?
 - Serve others in Jesus' name this week?
9. **Jesus keeps knocking, even when we miss His messages.** Is there an area of your life where you've been avoiding God's call or notification? What would it look like to open that door this week?

Pray together for:

- Those in your group who may need to respond to Jesus for the first time or recommit their lives to Him
- Courage to share faith openly with others
- Specific people in your lives who need to hear about Jesus
- Sensitivity to hear Jesus knocking in your daily lives
- Upcoming summer opportunities to grow in faith (Book of the Week series, camps, mission trips)

Confession and Commitment: If anyone feels led to make a first-time commitment to Jesus or recommit their life to Him, take time to pray with them specifically. Remember: there's no age limit, no perfect time—just respond!