

2026-06-07 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: "Thy Will Be Done"

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to speak through His Word and help the group honestly examine their walk with Christ.

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Question: When you think about your Bible, is it more like an unopened deck of cards, a children's storybook, or one well-worn card you keep pulling out? Why?

Key Sermon Points

1. The Whole Will of God vs. Select Verses

The pastor challenged us to engage with the entire Bible, not just favorite verses or familiar stories. Like a deck of cards, we need all 52, not just one.

2. Following Jesus Requires Leaving Everything

Multiple times in Luke, Jesus calls people to leave everything and follow Him—not after they finish other priorities, but immediately.

3. Kingdom Living Looks Different

Jesus teaches that Kingdom values often contradict worldly values: blessing the poor, loving enemies, giving without expecting return.

4. Not My Will, But Yours

Jesus modeled complete surrender in Gethsemane, praying "not my will, but yours be done."

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Scripture (15 minutes)

Luke 4:5-8 - The devil offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. What "kingdoms" or areas of life are we tempted to claim as our own rather than surrender to God?

Luke 5:8-11 - Peter's response to Jesus was "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" Why is recognizing our sinfulness essential to following Jesus? When was the last time you felt this way?

Luke 6:27-36 - Jesus commands us to love enemies, do good to those who hate us, and lend without expecting repayment. Which of these commands do you find most challenging? Why?

Personal Application (20 minutes)

The pastor said, "I need Jesus now more than I ever did" as he's gotten older and recognized more of his sin. How does this challenge the idea that spiritual maturity means needing Jesus less?

Luke 9:23 - "Take up your cross daily and follow me." What does "daily" cross-bearing look like in your life practically? What would need to change?

The sermon emphasized that many Christians want Jesus for salvation but resist His lordship over daily life. What areas of your life are you most reluctant to surrender to Christ's control?

Going Deeper (15 minutes)

Luke 11:28 - Jesus said those who hear God's word and put it into practice are "more blessed" than even Mary who bore Him. What does this reveal about God's priorities? How does this challenge you?

The pastor warned about starting to follow Christ but looking back (Luke 9:62). What causes Christians to "look back" to their old life? How can we guard against this?

Luke 6:46 - "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" If someone examined your life this past week, what evidence would they find that Jesus is actually your Lord?

Key Takeaways

Salvation is just the beginning - Following Jesus requires ongoing repentance, learning, and transformation.

The whole Bible matters - We can't build our faith on select favorite verses while ignoring difficult teachings.

Kingdom values contradict worldly values - Blessing comes through poverty of spirit, loving enemies, and giving sacrificially.

Following requires leaving - We must be willing to leave our own plans, possessions, and priorities to follow Christ.

"Not my will, but yours" - This prayer must become our daily posture, not just a crisis prayer.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge (Choose 1-2):

Option 1: Bible Reading Commitment

Commit to reading one chapter of Luke each day this week

Journal one thing that challenges you or one thing you need to obey

Share with the group next week what God showed you

Option 2: The "Not My Will" Prayer

Each morning this week, pray: "Lord, not my will but yours be done today"

Identify one specific area where you need to surrender control

Act in obedience when God prompts you, even if it doesn't make sense

Option 3: Love Your Enemies

Identify one person who has hurt you or whom you find difficult

Pray for them daily this week

Do one specific act of kindness for them (without expecting anything in return)

Option 4: Inventory Your "Rooms"

Ask God to show you what "rooms" in your soul you've marked "Do Not Disturb"

Confess one area you've been hiding from God's lordship

Take one concrete step to surrender that area to Christ

Accountability Questions

What specific action step are you committing to this week?

Who in the group can you text mid-week for encouragement?

What obstacle do you anticipate, and how will you overcome it?

Closing Reflection (10 minutes)

Read together: Luke 9:23-24

"Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.'"

Reflection Questions:

What is one thing God is specifically asking you to "leave" to follow Him more fully?

What would it look like to take up your cross "daily" this week?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Go around the circle and have each person complete this prayer:

"Lord, not my will but yours be done in [specific area of life]. Help me to..."

Close with someone praying for the group's commitment to follow Christ wholeheartedly this week.

For Next Week

Come prepared to share how God met you as you applied this week's challenge

Read Luke 12-14 in preparation for next week's discussion

Pray for one another throughout the week

Leader Notes

Be vulnerable first - Share your own struggles with surrender before asking others to share

Avoid surface answers - Gently push past "church answers" to honest wrestling

Create safety - Remind the group that what's shared stays in the group

Don't rush - It's better to go deep on fewer questions than superficial on many

Follow up - Text group members mid-week to encourage them in their commitments