

ETERNAL LIVING

What Jesus Really Meant
About Eternal Life

Icebreaker (Pick one):

1. *What's something you learned by trying, failing, and trying again?*
2. *If you could become really good at one skill you don't currently have, what would you choose?*

Introduction *(Read aloud before discussion.)*

*Step five gets very specific: Try to practice a teaching of Jesus. We can become overwhelmed trying to change everything at once, or discouraged because we've tried and failed before. Apprenticeship gives us another way: **isolate something our Master teaches, try to put it into practice, pay attention to what happens, learn, and try again.** The point isn't earning anything. The point is learning from Jesus how to live.*

Sermon Discussion *(Use as a guide for dialogue; let God lead, and read the verses aloud.)*

MATTHEW 7:13-14

1. Jesus describes a road that leads to "life." What is the road? What does Jesus mean by life?
2. How does keeping life as the goal change the way we think about practicing the teachings of Jesus?

MATTHEW 7:15-20

4. Jesus says we can recognize teachers by their fruit. What does that mean?
5. We're all being taught by people and voices around us. What kinds of "teachers" shape the way people live today?

MATTHEW 7:24-27

6. According to Jesus, what separates the wise person from the foolish person?
7. Trying and practicing seem obvious if someone wants to learn piano, get in shape, or improve a marriage. Why can "trying" sound strange when we talk about following Jesus?

LUKE 5:1-11

8. Peter is the fisherman, yet he says to Jesus, "Because you say so, I will." What does that reveal about being an apprentice?
9. Define a good student and a bad student. Is it possible to be a good karate student or a bad karate student? Is it possible to be a good student of Jesus or a bad student of Jesus?

PULLING IT TOGETHER:

1. What might change if, instead of trying to become a "better Christian," we isolated one teaching of Jesus and seriously tried to learn how to live it?
2. A good master will often start with one instruction to implement. Why is that?
3. What is the one teaching or instruction from the rabbi that you plan to try to implement this week?

FURTHER STUDY — READ MATTHEW 5:43-48

- If we actually wanted to learn to live this way, where could we begin? What might make it difficult? What could they learn from trying even if they failed?