**Life Group Discussion Guide**

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom

*Make Way for the King!*

October 10, 2021

**Reading:** Matthew 3

**Intro:**

1. Have you ever been surprised by eating food that was stale, dry or gone bad? Describe that time

2. When was a “stale season” of your faith? How did you feel, how did you get out of that time?

3. What comes to mind when you hear the word repentance?

**Read Matt 3:1-12. Pray and answer the following questions:**

1. Review: Chapter 3 wraps up the introduction to Matthew or the “Origin Story” of King Jesus. What have we learned about who Jesus is in chapter 1 and 2. What clues do these chapters give that something big is about to happen?

2. What does it mean for John to be preparing the way for the Lord, making straight paths for him? What is the significance of this prophecy (cf. Isaiah 40:3)?

3. How do we prepare the way for the Lord today?

4. If you had to explain repentance to someone who had no experience with Christianity what would you say?

5. Why is repentance first and foremost a matter of the heart? Can you give an example from your life?

6. Why was John so harsh with the Pharisees?

7. How does this passage explain what repentance is really about? (Potentially discuss confession vs. repentance).

8. Is repentance still relevant for us today?

**Read Matt 3:13-17**

1. How does this scene fit into the story of Matthew? What does it signify? (Hint: think of the Olympics)

2. Why did Jesus submit himself to a baptism of “repentance”? How did this set an example for Christians to follow?

3. Read Isaiah 42:1-4 and Psalm 2. God referred to both texts when he speaks to Jesus in vs17. What aspects of Jesus’ identity does this highlight? What expectations does this set up for what Jesus will do?

4. How is the baptism by water that we receive, act as an outward and visible sign of what God is doing with us with his Holy Spirit?

**Application**

1. Have you ever consciously grieved your sin? Why or why not?

2. Read Psalm 51:7-12. Is it healthy or unhealthy to grieve sin? What is the outcome?

3. What is the significance of Jesus being called a Nazarene? (Look up John 1:46, 7:52, and Isaiah 53:3)

4. How does repentance lead to joy?

5. Have you been baptized? If not, what is holding you back? If so, is there someone you can encourage this week to take that step of obedience?