



Group Guide

The Narrow Gate

October 26, 2025

Main Passage: Matthew 7:1-27

Theological Theme

We have a choice: We can choose to do what seems right to us, and follow the easy path the world recommends, or we can wisely choose to walk the narrow path by living the way Jesus teaches.

Introduction

- ❓ Think about a time in life when you had to make an important choice between two things. What happened?
- ❓ What types of daily choices are we presented with in the Christian life?

1. Do Not Judge (Matthew 7:1-6)

In the Sermon on the Mount so far, Jesus gave guidelines on how His followers should live. In this passage, His teaching addressed an aspect of how we should behave in our relationships: “Do not judge” (v. 1).

- ❓ What point was Jesus making in these verses? Does this mean we should never address the sin of another?
- ❓ Why is it important that we first address the sin in our own lives? In what way do we operate blindly if we don’t do this?
- ❓ Application: How do we struggle with the type of judging Jesus warned against in this passage?

2. The Door Will Be Opened (Matthew 7:7-12)

Have you ever felt like you couldn’t, or shouldn’t, pray for something? Jesus’s teaching around prayer paints a different picture. When we pray, God hears, and He answers . . . He just doesn’t always answer with a “yes” to the exact thing we are asking for. Like a parent knows not to say “yes” to a child asking to eat ice cream for every meal, God knows what is good for us. When we ask for something that is not good, He instead offers us the good things He knows we need. If we, as fallen, imperfect humans can do this for our children, how much more does God?

- ❓ What does it look like to ask, seek, and knock in relation to the things of God in our lives?
- ❓ What does Jesus's illustration of a parent and child teach us about our relationship with God and His care for us?
- ❓ Application: Where is God calling you to do for others as you would have done for yourself?

3. The Road That Leads to Life (Matthew 7:13-27)

Like a small, uphill path compared to a wide, flat road, the Christian life is hard. The way is narrow, and the path is difficult. It stretches us and sets us on a path that is counter cultural. It requires us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus. This teaching in Matthew is one of many teachings in Scripture that speak about the hardship that exists in the Christian life (John 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-13). Our culture promotes an easier path: If it is not hurting anyone, do what you want to do. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus called us to a higher standard than “you do you.”

- ❓ What stands out to you about the difference in the two paths and the two foundations described in these verses?
- ❓ How do we build our “house” on the rock daily (vv. 24-27)?
- ❓ Application: What are the ways we build our lives on a given foundation daily? What is the foundation you are building on now?

Conclusion

- ❓ Where do you struggle with judging others while failing to address the sin in your own life? What sin do you need to deal with now?
- ❓ How are we able to practice the Golden Rule in our church and alongside one another with our community?
- ❓ Where is God speaking to you about the foundation you are building your life on now? How do you need to respond?