



### **Notices:**

Hey wonderful small group leaders, here are a few notices to share with your group!

**Parenting evening** // "Our next Parenting Evening is coming up on Tuesday 14th March at 8pm. This month's topic is gender and sexuality and it'll be a Facebook live run by Parenting for Faith

**Young Adults Night** // Join us for our March Young Adults night where we will be coming together to hear the testimonies of two of our community. We will then split off into guys and girls to hear the testimonies, pray and grow in relationship with each other. Head to [bvc.so/yanight](http://bvc.so/yanight) to sign up.

**Easter Egg Drive** // As a church we love to share the joy of Easter. This is a simple way to share that joy with kids and families around our city! all you have to do is simple, bring an easter egg to any of our sunday gatherings. We will share it with a family in need around our city.

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## **The Clash of Kingdoms – Discipleship and Rejection**

**Date:** Sunday 5th March 2023

**Speaker:** Lauren Morris & Jeff Stamps

**Key Verses:** Matthew 10:16-39

### **Talk Summary:**

1. **Dependent - Matthew 10:16-25**

- So, we are sent out like sheep among wolves, but we can and should depend on Jesus our shepherd who cares for us.

- Jesus now had the task of warning the disciples that the persecution that he was experiencing would happen to them too. If they continued to follow Jesus and preach the gospel, they **would** experience rejection.
- All of Jesus' warnings did happen to the disciples and many still happen today. What Jesus describes isn't our experience in the western church, but it is the experience of the majority of Christians worldwide. [www.opendoorsuk.org](http://www.opendoorsuk.org).
- We are not called to seek out persecution, but Paul tells us in his letter to Timothy that "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" 2 Timothy 3:12.
- If we are not experiencing some kind of rejection because of our faith are we truly living it out? Do the people around you know that you know Jesus? If not, why not?

### 1. Trustful - Matthew 10: 26 - 31

- We do not need to be afraid because not only is God with us, and Jesus has defeated death, we can trust that we have a future hope in Him that is worth stepping out for.
- Speaking and living for Jesus can feel like a risk. But surely it is worth it for the sake of your friends given all that relationship with Jesus offers?
- Our greatest risk is that we tone down the message of Jesus to make it more palatable for our culture and time. In the name of tolerance, it can be easy to affirm beliefs and priorities that are other than Jesus, even though we believe that Jesus is the only way.
- Jesus didn't preach what people wanted to hear, but he did preach what they (and we) **needed** to hear.
- Jesus also promises that God sees us all individually and knows and loves us more intimately than we ever could. I don't know how many hairs there are on my head, but God does! When we know that Jesus loves us and is for us, there is much less to be afraid about.

### 2. Devoted - Matthew 10:32-39

- Family division is not the goal here, but Jesus is warning that it is a potential consequence. Unless everyone agrees with what Jesus says, there won't be peace. Disagreement causes division. When people make a decision about Christ, it's going to affect families.
- Jesus is talking about priorities – there is no neutral ground when it comes to Jesus. He is saying that what matters is allegiance to him. He should be and deserves to be on the top of every priority list.
- So Jesus tells us to pick up our cross. – following Jesus is literally an eternal life or death choice, with no looking back, giving Jesus all faith and loyalty.
- Dying is never pleasant. But resurrection life only comes through first dying. Dying to ourselves and embracing our identity fully in Jesus.
- Is there something that you haven't let Jesus into? Is there something that is stopping you from living wholeheartedly for Jesus?

**Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant your group)**

1. Do the people around you know that you know Jesus?
2. Do we see sharing our faith as a risk? If so what is that risk?
3. If we are not experiencing some kind of rejection because of our faith are we truly living it out?  
Discuss.
4. Is there an area of your life that you haven't let Jesus into? Is there something that is stopping you from living wholeheartedly for Jesus?

**Worship**

Small group Worship & Prayer resources can be found at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship)