



Notices:

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

Baptisms // There is an opportunity to get baptised at Easter, start chatting to and think about people in your group that may want to be baptised. Head to bvc.so/baptism for the full details.

Equip & Ignite // Equip and Ignite is a four-week course to help you step into a life of encounter with Jesus, growing in praying for people and releasing the kingdom outside the walls of the church. Head to bvc.so/equip-ignite

The Clash of Kingdoms – The King Overpowers the Strongman

Date: Sunday 12th March 2023

Speaker: Jon Solway & Kat Densham

Key Verses: Matthew 12:22-37

Talk Summary:

- Jesus heals a mute and blind man. This was significant because the Jewish people believed that this miracle was one of 4 miracles that only the Messiah could do (heal a leper, deliver a mute person from a demon, heal someone born blind, and raise the dead). Jesus proves that He is the Messiah (aka "The Son of David v.23) through this miracle.

- Jesus heals a mute and blind man. This was significant because the Jewish people believed that this miracle was one of 4 miracles that only the Messiah could do (heal a leper, deliver a mute person from a demon, heal someone born blind, and raise the dead). Jesus proves that He is the Messiah (aka "The Son of David v.23) through this miracle.
- To blaspheme the Holy Spirit means to reject His work. The primary work of the Holy Spirit is to reveal Jesus. So if we reject the Holy Spirit, we reject Jesus - our only access to the father (John 14:6), and therefore cannot be forgiven. If we accept the Holy Spirit's work, we've not committed the unforgivable sin.
- Jesus finishes by talking about fruit: good fruit comes from a good heart, and evil fruit from an evil heart. What is the fruit of our lives? What might that say about our hearts?

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

1. What did God speak to you about through this passage?
2. Have we fully accepted everything that Jesus says about himself? Which parts do we struggle to believe and why?
3. Just like a jury, we need to make a decision to believe in God or not, beyond reasonable doubt. Are doubts therefore wrong? What should we do with our doubts?
4. When have you recognised that you've done something wrong, or 'produced bad fruit? What should we do when we realise that?
5. (For reflection) - do our interactions with people lead to life and encouragement? Or do they produce bad fruit? What is God saying to our hearts?

Worship

Small group Worship & Prayer resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship