



fellowship church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sunday, April 19, 2026 - Pastor Bobby Parker

Listen to Jesus (Matthew 16:28–17:13)

Discussion Starter

- If you could go back and witness one of the stories in your Bible, which would you choose? What about that narrative captivates you?
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Reflection Questions

- Pastor Bobby notes that “Son of Man” was the title Jesus most frequently used for himself. Read Daniel 7:13–14. How does Daniel’s vision help us understand what Jesus is revealing about his identity here?
 - Peter often speaks or acts boldly in the gospels, even when he misunderstands what Jesus is doing. What about Jesus and his mission does Peter seem to miss in this scene? Do you relate to his reaction?
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Application Questions

- (Personal implications): Read Matthew 16:21–28. The disciples consistently struggle to understand and accept Christ’s suffering. In what ways do you do the same—expecting the “glory” of following Jesus while trying to avoid the “cross?”
- Pastor Bobby noted that we can be in the presence of Jesus (at church, in small groups, or reading the Bible) and not truly listen. In these moments what tends to hinder you from doing so?

- (Communal implications): Who in your life is able to speak truth to you and help you listen to Jesus? What would it look like for this group to do that well for one another?
- (Vision question): *We are a family of disciples on mission.* Has there been a time in your life when someone in your church family helped you refocus on Jesus' words? If so, would you be willing to share that story and its impact on you to encourage others in the group?
- (Missional implications): Thinking of the people in your life (neighborhood, workplace, family, etc.), who needs to listen to Jesus? What gospel truths could you share with them this week?

This week's guide written by: Katie Williamson

Tips for Group Leaders

- DO ask open-ended questions. DON'T ask questions where a short "right" answer ends the discussion.
- DO encourage mutual participation by every group member. DON'T feel the need to respond or weigh in after every contribution. Avoid monologuing. As the leader, your goal is to facilitate mutual discussion between all group members (Eph 4:15–16).
- DO ask follow-up questions: "What do you mean by that?" "Tell me more!" "Has anyone else experienced something similar (or different)?"
- DO feel free to pick and choose questions that are a good fit for your group. DON'T feel the need to get through every question, and don't worry if you spend most of your time on a few questions that generate a lot of good discussion.
- DO keep the main thing the main thing. Steer your conversation toward the main theme of the sermon and the biblical text. DON'T get sidetracked on less important matters, theological debates, etc. A rabbit trail might sometimes be worth pursuing—if group members are wrestling deeply with the implications of biblical truth for their lives. Otherwise, steer conversation back to the main topic.
- DO get into the text. It could be helpful to read over the passage together or ask questions directly related to the text. Help group members engage the text for themselves and respond to what they see there.
- DO revisit important moments from the sermon—a memorable story, an impactful quote, a convicting point of application. "Remember when pastor X talked about Y? What impression did that make on you?"
- DO allow space for reflection, silence, and thoughtful answers. DON'T feel that you need to jump in or ask a new question just because the group has been quiet for a few seconds. A good rule of thumb is to wait until the silence gets awkward, then count slowly to ten before jumping in.
- DO bring discussions home to practical, concrete everyday life. DON'T let discussion and application stay in the abstract realm. Steer discussion toward *what does responding to this sermon look like for me?* If comments are vague or general, ask "what would that look like, practically?"