

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary, to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Man’s Greatest Question – Oct. 25, 2026

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

2 Points

- **The Proof Provided by Jesus**
- **The Response of the Crowd**

I. The Proof Provided by Jesus

- Jesus met the paralytic’s deepest need first (forgiveness) and only then dealt with his physical need.
 - Why is the forgiveness of sins still “man’s deepest need and God’s highest achievement”?
 - How does knowing you are forgiven change the way you approach every other need or struggle?
- Jesus asks the scribes, “Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’?” (v. 5).
 - Why does Jesus frame the question this way?
 - In what sense are both statements impossible for a mere man and possible only for God?
- Look carefully at verse 6. Jesus says He heals the paralytic “that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”
 - According to the sermon, what is the main purpose of Jesus’ miracles?
 - How does this healing serve as proof of His authority to forgive?

- **Read and discuss** the following passages. What do these passages say about the purpose of miracles?
 - Matthew 9:6-7
 - Acts 2:22
 - John 3:1-2
 - Acts 2:42-43
 - 2 Corinthians 12:12
- Jesus deliberately creates an either-or dilemma: either He is God (and therefore has the right to forgive sins) or He is a blasphemer.
 - Why does He refuse to soften the claim or offer a third option (e.g., “I’m just God’s messenger”)?
 - What does the miracle prove about Jesus?

II. The Response of The Crowd

- Verse 8 says the crowds “were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.”
 - What is both right and incomplete about their response?
 - How does their conclusion (“God has given this authority to men”) fall short of what Jesus has just demonstrated?
- Jesus later pronounces a severe judgment on Capernaum (Matthew 11:23–24) because of the very miracles they witnessed.
 - Why is greater light accompanied by greater accountability?
 - How does this warning still speak to people who have heard the gospel and seen its power but remain unconvinced about who Jesus really is?
- The disciples once asked, “What sort of man is this?” (8:27). That question is still the most important one any person can answer.
 - What evidence from this passage most clearly points you to the conclusion that Jesus is truly God?
- Explain why the question “Who is Jesus” is so important. How do heaven and hell rest on this question?

Announcements:

SALT: Thanksgiving Feast!

11/21 | 10am | Chapel

If you are a senior attending COBC, we would love to welcome you to “SALT” (Senior Adults Living Triumphantly). Join us for a delicious Thanksgiving feast and a message from Pastor Craig about “The Joy of Gratitude.” **Space is limited**, so please sign up soon! With any questions, text or call Barbara Miller at (805) 660-8096.