

# FBC Small-Group Materials

Week of April 9th, 2006  
Matthew 7:13-29; The Great Divide

## **For Small-Group Leaders**

“A saint is one who exaggerates what the world neglects.” G.K. Chesterton  
**ex·ag·ger·ate** v. – 1. To overstate. 2. To do something to an excessive degree.

Dear Leaders,

Many of the things that we are called to stand for from the Sermon on the Mount are not popular with the world. How often do you hear people getting excited about loving their enemy? With what frequency do you hear folks espouse the merits of meekness? Not very often I suspect. To stand up for the things that matters to Jesus may just appear to the world as an “exaggeration.” As we conclude our study on Christ’s Sermon on the Mount, we find Jesus calling us to a radical choice. “Make a definite decision,” he might say to us. “Enter in by the narrow gate.” You don’t enter this gate by accident or by going with the flow. It takes a definite choice to enter this way. You might say, to borrow Chesterton’s words above, it is an exaggerated choice.

Blessings to you and your group as you interact together on Jesus’ words of life.

Scott

These small group materials are available at the info table each Sunday and at [www.fbcdavis.org](http://www.fbcdavis.org).

### **Discussion Starters:**

- **Difficult Choices:** Brainstorm together, as a group, some of life’s most difficult choices.
- **Unpopular Choice:** Share about a choice you made in your life that was not popular with those who knew you.

### **Discussion Questions:**

Introduction: Read Matthew 7:13-29.

1. What in this passage is difficult to hear?
2. How are the two gates different and what do they symbolize?
3. In Matthew 7:14, Jesus says that “only a few” will *find* the narrow gate. How do you think a person could go about searching for the gate?
4. Jesus instructs us in Matthew 7:15-20 to put effort into discerning good fruit from bad fruit (as seen in the lives of those who teach God’s Word to us). How do we go about distinguishing between good fruit and bad fruit?
5. We usually think of reading the Bible as beneficial. As you look at verses 21-29, how might reading the Bible be dangerous?
6. How are the two houses different and similar?
7. What reveals the strength or integrity of the foundation of these homes?
8. What kinds of storms do Christians face? Is there a difference between the kinds of storms believers face as compared to unbelievers?
9. If you were to take Jesus’ words in this passage and boil it down to one singular thought, what would it be?

### **Getting Personal:**

(Leader’s note: You may want group members to answer this last question in pairs or groups of 3-4). What one teaching from the Sermon on the Mount has challenged you the most? How could we pray for you in regards to that teaching?