

WEEK 4 TOUGH PARABLES DISCUSSION GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion; Adjust as needed to fit your group. Don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

THE MAIN POINT

God is faithful to us,
so let's be faithful to Him.

THE MAIN SCRIPTURE

[Luke 16:1-14](#) &
[Matthew 6:19-21](#)

GET THEM TALKING

- Did you ever look for buried treasure as a kid?
- What kinds of things do people really care about when money is their top priority?

READ Luke 16:9-14 and answer the following questions:

1. We can learn from the manager's mistake and be faithful to authority.

- What do you find most confusing about this parable, and why?
[PRO TIP: Don't feel like just because you are leading the discussion you have to have all the answers. This is a tough parable, if someone asks a question you don't know - open it up and ask the group what they think. If you all still don't know, as a group take time on your own to research the question and share what you find via text or next week.]
- When is it most difficult for you to respect authority?
- What does it look like to be faithful to authority?
- Why would Jesus care if we respect authority figures in our lives?
- How can you be faithful to authority even when you disagree?

2. We can learn from the manager's shrewdness to be faithful to our friends.

- Describe the friend you've known the longest. Why have you stayed friends for so long?
- Has a "friend" ever used you for his or her own gain? If so, what did that experience teach you?
- Describe how you feel when you get nothing from helping someone—no thanks, nothing in return.
- What does it look like to use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends? (verse 9)
- Is it easier to do something to benefit others or to make friends? Why?

3. Big faithfulness to God shows up in the smallest little ways.

- Give me some examples of how people who are known for doing big things might have gotten started with little things. *[NOTE: Examples might include a professional athlete who had to work and train hard for years, an owner of a huge business who started with just one small store, and so on.]*
- How do you feel when your parents say you're not ready for a step in independence?
- How does faithfulness in little things prepare you for faithfulness in big things?
- What's the next big step in independence that you're most excited about? How are the things you're doing now preparing you for this next big step?
- At the end of this parable, Jesus transitioned into the topic of money—why is that significant?
- How would you explain verse 13 to a friend who isn't a follower of Jesus?

NEXT STEPS

- When you read a passage from the Bible that seems confusing or unclear, how can you make sense of it? Who can help you with that?
- What is Jesus teaching you about your attitude toward authority, or about the friends in your life?
- How can you creatively help someone this week?
- Tell us about one specific area of "little responsibility" where you can be faithful this week. What might Jesus be speaking to you during that act of faithfulness?

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share any prayer requests, and close together in prayer.