

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Pray the Lord's Prayer together or individually to begin the time (Mtt 6:9-13).

Share with the Group about a time you had unmet expectations. What was it like? Have you ever not known your expectations until you've been let down?

Read Matthew 11:1-19

Why does John doubt if Jesus is actually the Messiah?

Why does Jesus respond to John by quoting passages from Isaiah?

Where do you see these things in Matthew ch2-ch11?

Consider the imagery and contrasts Jesus uses to describe John in vs 7-9. What is Jesus saying about John?

Why does Jesus declare John to be the greatest person ever born?

If what Jesus says is true, how is it also true that the least in the Kingdom will be greater than John?

What is Jesus trying to communicate?

Jesus says the Kingdom has been suffering violence from the time of John until now. What does he mean?

How is this seen in Matthew ch2 - ch11?

How does this continue to be true in the remainder of Matthew?

Does this continue to be true today? If so, how?

Why does Jesus say that John is Elijah? (hint, read Malachi 4:1-6)

Why does this matter?

How do both Jesus and John defy the expectations of the people?

How are the people like the kids playing songs? What's Jesus saying?

Why does Jesus close by saying wisdom is proved right by her deeds?

Consider the Following:

What does it mean to be "offended" by Jesus in the way he describes? (vs 6)

Is this something you've ever experienced in your own life? How?

What's the difference between confusion, disappointment, & offense?

Why are we blessed if we aren't offended? What does this mean?

Is there a place in your life where you need to adjust your expectations of God and learn to dance to his tune instead of expecting him to listen to your tune?

If so, where? How can you begin going about this?

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