

Grace Group Discussion Guide

Enter by the Narrow Gate

John Paul Stepanian

Matthew 7:13, 14

Questions:

Warm Up:

1. What is one way that the sermon encouraged, exhorted, challenged, or corrected you?

Discussion:

1. Read Acts 17:30. JP said that to enter by the narrow gate means that we are commanded to be converted. What does it mean that we are commanded to believe in Christ and repent?
2. Read John 3:16–18. Why is NOT making a decision, actually making a decision? And what is the danger of doing nothing?
3. Read Proverbs 1:7, 12:15, 13:20; What are the two paths the bible reveals people walk down?
4. In what way is the easy street a popular dead end?
5. Who is walking through the wide gate?
6. What makes the gate that leads to destruction, easy and wide?
7. What makes the gate that leads to life narrow?
8. JP said that the narrow gates leads to life, and that it can only be entered alone. What significance does this have on growing up in a christian family?
9. Many people come to Christ for the earthly benefits it brings without struggle. But what is the true reality of living a life for Christ? (Sacrifice, persecution, etc.)
10. What are some examples in your own life of what it has cost you to be a Christian?
11. What are some hindrances to people surrendering their life to Christ?
12. What does an exalted view of Christ do for the believer? (Endurance)
13. What is the importance of counting the cost before coming to Christ?

Prayer Suggestion:

Message from John Paul and Sarah Stepanian

Dear Church Family,

Exactly six years ago you were rallying around our family and preparing to launch us out from GCV onto the mission field. Since July of 2019 we have loved the privilege and joy of serving Jesus in Kubamitwe, Uganda! Thank you for sending us! GCV is our home sending church and we love you so much. We only have thee supporting churches and GCV is the main one. We praise the Lord for His faithfulness, love, and care through you for all these years. Currently, JP is teaching 3 classes in Term 1 at the Shepherds Training College, while also taking his own PhD class and loving it. He leads a men's discipleship group every week, and serves as an elder in our local church. We recently just finished teaching a class on biblical parenting together with 4 young families in our church. We praise the Lord for so many opportunities to teach and teach and teach the Bible! Sarah is absolutely loving the expanding Shepherds Wives program and all the opportunities she gets to open the Word with women in and out of our home. Our

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family is doing very well! All 12 kids are busy studying, serving, singing, gardening, and growing! Our table is always full and you are always welcome! Come and visit! Love, JP & Sarah

Prayer Request

- That God would send laborers because the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few.
- That God would save our children from eternal destruction.
- For Sarah Stepanian to have strength, grace, and endurance in opening up her home for various ministry events, for bible studies and for discipleship.
- For GCV to see prayer as a priority of importance in supporting them as missionaries in Uganda
- Pray for Team Uganda as they prepare to be in the country in May for a youth Bible Conference!