5 Two Ways To Live

kick off

How do you know when someone has listened to us well?

How does God know when we have heard him?

key verse

Matthew 7:24 [24] "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

big idea

Jesus is not presenting his followers with some good ideas to think about he is calling them to make a life and death decision about whether they will put his words into practice.

investigate

read Matthew 7.7-29

1. In the light of Matt.6.8-15;25-34, what do you think Jesus was expecting his disciples to 'ask, seek and knock' for?

2. How does v12 give us an insight into Matt. 5.17 and how does it show the way Jesus wants his disciples to fulfil the heart of the law from the heart?

3. 'No one becomes holy unintentionally'. How does this quote summarise 7.13-14?

4. God can look at a person's heart and know what they are like but we can't. How are we supposed to understand someone's nature 7.15-23?

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5. What is the mark of true leadership according to Jesus?

6. Think over the whole of Jesus' mountain talk, list three areas where you need to put Jesus' words into action.

a.   b.   c.

think & apply

7. First read Murray's story. Describe a similar time you have faced or are facing?

8. Pick one of the areas you identified in point 6.. How will you put Jesus words into action?

9. Share with other members of the group (for prayer) one of the areas you want to see growth in Christ-likeness.

10. If we do seek change what will God do to bring about change v27?

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digging deeper

God's People have always been called to make a choice about who they will serve. Jesus is standing in a long tradition of prophets who give Israel and 'either' 'or' option. Read
Joshua 24
1 Kings 18

Murray's Story
Describe a time when you had to make a choice between being obedient to Jesus' words or not?
When I was at uni in Armidale, there was a girl who had been coming to church who was fun, a model and interested in going out. As I got to know her, I discovered that she believed in God but was not willing to have Christ as Lord and Saviour of her life. So I was left with a decision to follow Christ or to go out with a girl who did not place him as King as I did. Over a number of weeks my heart caught up with the decision my head had made and I followed Jesus instead of going out with her. Looking back, it seems an easy decision to follow Jesus instead of doing what feels good at the time, but at the time it was a hard and complicated decision. It is not also clear what is the right thing to do to follow Jesus, but once we struggle through what Jesus is requiring of us, it is always the right thing to do

scenario 1: The church decides that it needs to have at least one new elder. How will you work out who is a suitable candidate?

scenario 2: Your non-Christian friend says that they don't want to become a Christian because it's such a limiting lifestyle. How do you challenge them well?

"Love may forgive all infirmities and love still in spite of them: but Love cannot cease to will their removal."

The Problem of Pain
C.S. Lewis

what can you pray for arising from this study?

& for members of your group...   **& for others linked to your group..**   **& for non-believing friends...**

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our ministries:

pray this week for the Holiday Kids' Club happening in July. Pray for the writing of the material, the thorough preparation of the teachers and pre-senters and the adequate manning of the different activities. *Pray that the Lord God will use this witness to draw little ones to himself.*

partner church:

MACLEAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Mark and Lyndal worked with us for two years before moving to the Northern Rivers. They have three children now, Beth, Riley and Lachlan.
Prayer
For the family adjusting to Lachlan's arrival.
For Angela Pateman the new trainee worker.
Church building expansion—focus on the ministry.

world mission:

Glen and Rachel Connor ministering at the Talua Training Centre, Vanuatu.

annual general meeting
Sunday march 26th

feb 27	*Committee of Management*
mar 5	*Charlotte Hartin's baptism*
mar 6	*Session/Ministry Leaders Meeting*
mar 18	*Campbell & Maryann's wedding*
mar 26	*Annual General Meeting*

In March we begin a new series of talks and studies in HOMEchurch called, 'The Divine Art of Hospitality'. How does God welcome us and how do we welcome others into the family of God

Share with each other on Sunday some ideas about how each of us can be aiming to long for, look for and act out deep change (look at scenarios above for some ideas).
Pray for each other in these things—be specific!

for next week read
Genesis 1-2