

2018

BEST YEAR EVER

WEEK 6

DISCUSSION
GUIDE

Introduction:

It is a new year, a time of new possibilities, fresh goals, and clean slates. As we stand at the edge of this new adventure, let's take a few minutes to pause and reflect. What do we need to focus on this year? Where do we need to change or grow? What could make this the *Best Year Ever*?

Scripture:

Matthew 13:44-46 - "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!"

Mark 10:20-21 - "'Teacher,' the man replied, 'I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young.' Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. 'There is still one thing you haven't done,' he told him. 'Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'"

For More, Read & Discuss Mark 10:17-31

Discussion Questions:

1. The man who finds treasure in Matthew 13, the merchant who buys a pearl, and the Olympic athletes we all enjoy watching have something in common: they have all sacrificed good things in their lives to pursue something great.
 - When have you given up something good to acquire or accomplish something great?
2. When we read about "The Kingdom of Heaven" it is easy to think about eternity. What we often forget is that eternity has already begun. If you have said "yes" to Jesus, you can be living in that Kingdom each day, but Kingdom living requires active sacrifice. We, like the men in Matthew 13 & the Olympians on our TVs, have to sacrifice *good* if we want to pursue *great*.
 - What *good* parts of life might you have to give up to make room for living a little more of your daily life in the Kingdom?
 - What keeps you from making this change?
 - What would your life look like if you gave up "good" for "great"?
3. When you make room for more of the Kingdom to come into your daily life, what would you expect to flow out of your daily life?

Take the Next Step:

When you think about the future, what do you want your life to be like? Strip away all material aspects and really get to the core substance of life; what do you want that to be? How do you take a step in that direction this week?