

Creekside Church – LifeGroup Leader Discussion Guide

Series: *Jesus Curious*

Week: *Jesus Never Said That*

Key Scripture: Matthew 16:24–25

20260503

Opening Prayer

Father, we come before You asking for open hearts and honest minds. Help us to see Jesus clearly—not as we wish Him to be, but as He truly is. Give us courage to be challenged, humility to be corrected, and faith to follow where He leads. Shape us tonight through Your Word and by Your Spirit. Amen.

Leader Note (Big Idea)

This week challenges the tendency to reshape Jesus into something comfortable or culturally acceptable. Emphasize that Jesus doesn't come to *enhance* our current lives—He calls us to *surrender* them. Expect some tension in discussion; that's part of the point. Keep the tone gracious but grounded in truth.

Discussion Questions & Leader Insights

1. What ideas from the sermon caught your attention?

Leader Insight:

Start broad. Let people process. Listen for themes like discomfort, conviction, or clarity. This question helps you gauge where the group is spiritually and emotionally.

2. Read Matthew 7:1–5. We often hear "Judge not" used to mean we should never offer moral correction. How does Jesus' actual instruction change that?

Leader Insight:

Jesus isn't forbidding discernment—He's condemning hypocrisy. The key movement is: *examine yourself first, then help others humbly*. Emphasize restoration, not superiority.

3. Our culture defines "love" as unconditional affirmation. In John 4 (woman at the well), how did Jesus show love that was both welcoming and transformative?

Leader Insight:

Jesus meets her with dignity and compassion—but doesn't ignore her sin. True love moves *toward* people but also calls them *forward*. Highlight both grace and truth working together.

4. At funerals or in conversation, people say "all paths lead to God." How do we reconcile the Gospel's invitation with Jesus' exclusive claim in John 14:6?

Leader Insight:

The Gospel is radically inclusive in invitation ("anyone can come") but exclusive in path ("only through Jesus"). Encourage respectful but confident articulation of truth.

5. Many believe God's goal is our comfort. If Jesus said we will have trouble (John 16:33), how should that reshape expectations in hardship?

Leader Insight:

Shift from a comfort-centered faith to a Christ-centered one. Jesus promises presence and victory—not ease. This reframes suffering as part of discipleship, not a failure of faith.

6. If your life were a house, is Jesus a decorator or a disruptor? What is one "wall" He may be tearing down?

Leader Insight:

This is the turning-point question. Push for specificity. "Walls" could be control, identity, habits, relationships, or beliefs. Encourage honesty without pressure.

7. Jesus offers a "yoke" that is easy and a burden that is light (Matthew 11:29–30). Why is His authority more freeing than cultural "freedom"?

Leader Insight:

Culture defines freedom as no restraint—but that often leads to chaos or bondage. Jesus’ “yoke” brings alignment, purpose, and peace. True freedom is found in right submission.

8. Discipleship means being transformed into His likeness. Where does cultural influence still shape how you think or act?

Leader Insight:

Help the group identify subtle influences (success, identity, sexuality, control, self-expression). The goal isn’t shame—it’s awareness leading to surrender.