



**Kingdom Wisdom**  
*Upside Down Wisdom*  
Matthew 11:25-30

How to Prepare

Begin preparing by reading the full passage a few times. Then answer the questions for yourself. Then think about how your Small Group might answer them. Try re-wording the questions to fit you and your Small Group. Don't feel tied down to the discussion guide, just be sure to discuss the main point of the text in your conversations.

Resources-

<https://www.desiringgod.org/scripture/matthew/11/labs>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Trinity-Bible.html>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/come-all-who-are-weary>

Sermon Outline:

Matthew 11:25-30

1. The Pleasure of the Father. Vv. 25-26
2. The Revelation of the Son. V. 27
3. The Rest for Our Souls. Vv. 28-30

**Matthew 11:25-30**

**Come to Me**

25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.

26 Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.

27 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

# Discussion Questions

**Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 11:25-30.**

## INTRODUCTION

Here is a question or two to help introduce the topic and jump-start discussion.

**1. What does it mean for something to be counterintuitive? If a concept is counterintuitive is it necessarily wrong? What is an example of something that seems counterintuitive to you, but is true nonetheless?**

## UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

These questions should help your Small Group dig deeper into the text and then apply it to your lives today.

### **1. The Pleasure of the Father. Vv. 25-26**

**2. What about these verses might seem counterintuitive? What does it mean that the Father hid "these things from the wise and intelligent and revealed them to infants?" What does Jesus mean when He says "wise and intelligent" and "infants?"**

*("The wise and intelligent" refers to people who have pride in their own understanding, whereas "infants" refers to people who are completely humble and dependent. This is clear especially because of the context of Capernaum which thought it would be "exalted to heaven..." -Matt. 11:23)*

**3. What are "these things" that are being hidden and revealed? Why is it well-pleasing to God to hide these things from the proud and reveal them to the humble?**

*("These things" refers to the information or wisdom one needs in order to repent and enter the Kingdom of Heaven. 1 Corinthians 1:20-31 shows that God does not reveal Himself to arrogant people who think highly of their wisdom and intellect, because He will not allow people to think that they somehow made their way to God because of their wisdom or intellect. That does not mean that being wise or intelligent disqualifies you from knowing God. God doesn't reject wise people, He rejects proud people. If God wants to reveal Himself to you, but your pride is getting in the way, then He will humble you. The more you know about God, the more you can only be thankful and boast in His gift, not in yourself who simply received it.)*

**4. What are some possible areas of pride that we need to guard against individually, as a Small Group, and as a Church?**

## **II. The Revelation of the Son. V. 27**

### **5. What does v. 27 tell us about the exclusive relationship that God has within Himself?**

*(Jesus has an exclusive relationship with the Father that no one else has... this is the internal and eternal communion of God with Himself in the Trinity. God isn't lonely, and He doesn't need us. So why make us and save us? Because He is overflowing with love and goodness, and He simply wants others to experience His joy with Him.)*

### **6. What was Jesus telling people about Himself when He said this? In what way is this an outlandish claim?**

### **7. How is it possible for any of us to enter into the relationship that God already has within Himself? What does it look like to partake in that relationship on a daily basis?**

*(While it is true that God has an internal and eternal relationship within Himself, it is also true that Christ can bring people into that relationship and make people know the Father and Son as God knows Himself. God does this by drawing people to Himself through faith in Christ.)*

## **III. The Rest for Our Souls. Vv. 28-30**

### **8. Why were people weary and heavy-laden at that time? What causes people to be weary and heavy-laden today?**

*(People at all times are pursuing abundant life. They might think it is in heaven, on earth, or some other mystical place. But regardless of where they think abundant life is found, all religions and philosophies other than biblical Christianity teach that you have to work to get it. People are striving under the heavy expectation of performance in order to feel fulfilled. That will only leave you exhausted and lifeless.)*

### **9. What about vv. 29-30 might seem counterintuitive? What is the "yoke" that Jesus is talking about, and how is it restful, easy, and light?**

*(A yoke was a device put onto oxen that was used to pull heavy loads. It denotes the idea of work. At that time, the term "yoke" was also used to denote being a disciple and student of religious leaders like a Rabbi or the Pharisees. But the "work" that Jesus expects from His disciples is not the same. John 6:29 says "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." And John 15:4 says "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me." So Jesus' "yoke" is that of faith and dependence on Him. He is the one who brings us into the Kingdom of Heaven, not our own works, wisdom, or effort.)*

### **10. What does "rest for your souls" mean, and how do we find that day in and day out?**

## Commentary (from ESV Study Bible)

**Matt. 11:25–26** these things. The message and activities of the kingdom of heaven, which require faith and humility to grasp. wise and understanding. Those who are wise in the world's eyes but are unrepentant and stubbornly refuse to accept the gospel. little children. Those who receive the gospel in simple faith (cf. 18:1–5).

**Matt. 11:27** All things have been handed over to me by my Father. This reveals the profound divine self-consciousness of Jesus, as well as the supreme authority of the Father within the Trinity, by which he has delegated authority over “all things” to the Son. “All things” probably refers to everything needed with respect to the carrying out of Christ's ministry of redemption, including the revelation of salvation to those to whom he chooses to reveal the Father. no one knows the Son except the Father. In both Jesus' incarnate state and his eternal state as Son, the Father and the Son share an exclusive relationship, including a direct and immediate knowledge of each other.

**Matt. 11:28** Come to me is an invitation to trust Jesus personally, not merely to believe historical facts about him. All who labor and are heavy laden refers in the immediate context to those oppressed by the burden of religious legalism imposed on people by the scribes and Pharisees. But the wider application is that Jesus provides “rest for your souls” (v. 29)—that is, eternal rest for all who seek forgiveness of their sins and freedom from the crushing legalistic burden and guilt of trying to earn salvation by good works.

**Matt. 11:29** yoke. The wooden frame joining two animals (usually oxen) for pulling heavy loads was a metaphor for one person's subjection to another, and a common metaphor in Judaism for the law. The Pharisaic interpretation of the law, with its extensive list of proscriptions, had become a crushing burden (cf. 23:4) but was believed by the people to be of divine origin. Jesus' yoke of discipleship, on the other hand, brings rest through simple commitment to him (cf. 1 John 5:3).