

Scripture and Background Information for July 8-14

Before Sunday, July 15, we would like each group member to personally study **Matthew 9:35-38** and to discuss it with their group. Group members should complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns in our new **Discussion Guide**.

Background Information for Matthew 9:35-38

In this set of verses, Jesus is in the middle of his ministry. He has spent much of His time preaching and teaching up to this point. His teaching focuses on "*the good news of the kingdom*", where Jesus' focuses on the freedom and responsibility that come to those who trust in Him. In chapter 9, Jesus focuses on those who are hurting and broken. Verses 35-38 form a hinge that connect that mission of Jesus from chapter 9 with his response in chapter 10 where he sends out his disciples. In His ministry Jesus is ministering to both the peoples' physical needs and spiritual needs. The spiritual bankruptcy of the people is seen clearly in 9:34 when the Pharisees claim that Jesus is a demon. Jesus teaches His disciples to have a similar ministry to his own by relying on the power of God to heal and help those who are physically and spiritually broken.

The Summer of 10,000 Blessings, June 10 – August 19

Our calling as Christ-followers is *to display and declare who God is and what He's like everywhere we go*. Join with us this summer in being intentional to find at least one way each week to BLESS someone who does not know Christ. Let's make a difference wherever we go! **Sign up by texting "Bless" to 33222**. We'll send you a weekly reminder and encouragement.

Here are the Scriptures for your group to discuss during the week of...

July 15-21

1 Peter 1:24 – 2:3

Background Information is posted weekly at <http://www.mckinneychurch.com/leaders>.