



THE NARROW WAY Matthew 7:13–14

CONNECT

1. In Matthew 7:14, Jesus tells the crowds that following His way will be hard. As you reflect on the past weeks, ranging from the pandemic to George Floyd's death and the events that followed, what has the Lord been showing you about Himself? What are some of the "hard" things you have been learning? Give thoughtful attention to your own expectations, presuppositions, wounds and biases.

CELEBRATE

2. Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:13 that "the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction." As a group, contemplate the scope of these words. What are the things found along the wide and easy way that we might commonly accept, but nonetheless lead to destruction? Take time to read 2 Timothy 3:1–9 and Psalm 73:3–12 for additional wisdom.
3. What is implied with the use of the word "destruction" in Matthew 7:13? Consider Daniel 12:2, Matthew 10:28, Mark 9:44, Luke 16:19–31, 2 Thessalonians 1:5–10 and Revelation 20:10–15. Why should this implication be sobering?
4. Matthew 7:14 suggests a different pathway than that addressed in Matthew 7:13. Jesus speaks of a narrow gate and a hard or narrow path upon which only a few travel. Why is this so radically different from the wide and easy path? Consider John 10:9–11, John 14:6 and Psalm 1. In what ways do these passages help your understanding about the narrow gate and the hard and narrow path?
5. In contrast to the wide and easy way which leads to destruction, the narrow way leads to life. Reread John 10:10 and then read 1 Corinthians 2:9 and Revelation 21:1–7. In what way does the anticipation of "life" motivate you right now?
6. It is clear that Jesus is the gate through which one must pass to ultimately gain life. The gospel is the good news that God's kingdom has come near in Jesus. Through His life, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven, the powers of sin, death and the devil no longer have the final word. Do you believe this? In what way can you celebrate this every day of your life?

CONTRIBUTE

7. New Hope Church is a Christ-centered community moving toward Jesus and taking others with us. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "not at all" and 10 being "very engaged," rate how intentional you are with spiritual conversations with those around you. What practical choices could you make this next week to walk someone toward the gate which is Jesus?