

Thornbury Baptist Church
Small Group Discussion Questions

Talk Date: May 31st 2026

Talk title: The Easy Yoke

Passage: Matthew 11:25-30

Speaker: David Lawrence

Discussion Questions

1. In verse 25 Jesus reflects on his experience of preaching in the towns of northern Israel (11:1; 16-24). His conclusion notes that unlikely people had responded to God's revelation through his preaching (25,26). How and when did people on the group first *experience* and then *respond* to the revelation of God's love in Jesus?

2. In verse 27 Jesus makes the startling claim that only he, as God's Son, really knows God, his Father.

- Where else (apart from in Jesus) might we – or other people – look to find out what God is like? In the light of this verse, how might other ways of trying to know God fall short?
- What do we see about the Father through the life, teaching, death and resurrection of the Son?

3. In verse 28, Jesus offers an invitation to come to him. If you were explaining this verse to a not-yet-Christian seeker, how would you explain what 'coming to Jesus' means? What Bible verses or stories might you use in your explanation?

4. Jesus offers an alternative to the heavy demands (yoke) of the scribes and Pharisees. Jesus' yoke (teaching) is not less demanding than the scribes and Pharisees' (scan back through the Sermon on the Mount – chapter 5-7!). So in what way is it 'light and easy'? Is there a clue in Matthew 23:1-4)?

- How significant is Jesus' heart-attitude (29), to his offer of a 'yoke' that is easy to bear?

6. Some readings of these verses suggest that Jesus is offering a version of Christianity that is trouble-free and cost-free. This flies in the face of his other teaching (e.g. 5:10-12; 10:35,36; 38,39). How do we reconcile the 'easy yoke' with this wider teaching of Jesus?

Takeaway

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?

Spend time praying with one another in the light of your discussion.