

## **Life Church September 18, 2011 Message Notes**

### **Message Title: Choose Life Not Destruction**

#### **Key Passage:**

#### **Matthew 7:12-14**

New International Version (NIV)

**12** So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. **13** "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. **14** But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

#### **Supporting Scriptures:**

#### **2 Corinthians 4:8-9**

New International Version 1984 (NIV1984)

**8** We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; **9** persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

#### **Isaiah 30:20-21**

New International Version 1984 (NIV1984)

**20** Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. **21** Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

## Further Reflection:

- The Narrow Gate in Matthew 7:13,14 is figuratively “narrow” because it runs against what we are naturally inclined towards.
- On the Narrow Road, we can be pressed, hemmed in, or afflicted.
- There can be many forces (temptation, outside opinions, weaknesses, etc.) that urge us towards the Wide Gate and the Wide Road that ultimately leads to destruction.
- We are instructed to enter the Narrow Gate. Although it’s difficult, there is encouragement on the Narrow Road: a voice from the Lord saying “This is the way, walk in it.”

1. In what areas of your life do you feel a push towards the Wide Gate and the Wide Road?

2. What does entering the Narrow Gate mean for you in these situations?

3. How can you better anticipate and plan for these difficult times?

4. How have you been encouraged and grown on the Narrow Road?