

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 March 23, 2025
"The World's Most Important Sermon"

OPENING PRAYER

God Most High and Holy, from the heights of Mount Sinai you instructed your holy people, through Moses, in your law; and on a mountain in Galilee, through your Son Jesus, you instructed all who would follow him in the ways of your reign. As we study the Sermon on the Mount, may you speak again, through your Spirit, teaching how we may walk the paths of righteousness and love that are pleasing to you, life-giving to our neighbors, and for which you created all humanity. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Our scripture passage, The Sermon on the Mount, is located in the Gospel of Matthew, chapters 5-7. Because of the length of this passage, please have your group look it up in a Bible or through an online resource such as BibleGateway.com.

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INTRODUCTION

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' most well-known teaching and one of history's most famous speeches ever. Jesus delivered this sermon 2,000 years ago, and the implications of these words are still shockingly relevant and meaningful.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus begins to lay out for his followers the missional, ethical, and the spiritual life of the kingdom of God. As Jesus followers, these words are our marching orders. But while the message of Jesus is clear, it is not easy to live out. This week as you read through the Sermon on the Mount, make note of areas that you are struggling with on your Spiritual journey. Then, focus on making some improvements during this season of Lent.

QUESTIONS

- 1. Read aloud Matthew 5:2-12 (The Beatitudes). Which of Jesus' Beatitudes resonates most with you, and why? Which one, if any, confuses, challenges, or even worries you the most, and why?
- 2. Read aloud Matthew 5:13-16. What specific "good works" are you doing to live as salt and light; and to bring glory to God?
- 3. Read Matthew 5:21-48. What do you think is Jesus' point when it comes to the commandments?
- 4. Read aloud Matthew 6:19-34. What does seeking God's kingdom first look like, practically? How does it help with the temptation of money and worry?
- 5. Read aloud Matthew 7:21-23. Who does Jesus say will enter the Kingdom? Why will those who do not enter be surprised at Jesus' reaction to them?

FINAL APPLICATION

What teaching from the Sermon on the Mount do you need to work on? How can this group help?