



October 21, 2020
Small Group 4th - 5th grade

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT | *Matthew 5-7*

Memory Verse: ²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

JOHN 14:25-26

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?

Bottom Line: I trust and obey every word of Jesus.

Christ Connection: Jesus taught people what it means to follow Him. He taught how people should live, how they should treat one another, and how to love God. People who trust in Jesus live to honor God and show what His kingdom is like.

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways.

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Next Steps As we continue our journey through the Bible, it is important to always remember that we are studying the bible so that we will grow to love, follow, and obey Jesus. We aren't just learning to know things. We are learning so that we will do things that honor God. What is your next step? You can talk about this in your group, but begin to think about it now:

- Believe: believe that you are a sinner who needs a Savior and Jesus is your Savior because He died for you and rose again.
- Get baptized: show your faith by getting dipped back in the water and raised out of the water.
- Read your Bible and pray: read your Bible and pray every day so that you get to know God personally
- Serve others: serve others at home, at school, and at church.

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect (40 Minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

Bible Skills and Discussion

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do: Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Matthew 5. Ask a kid to tell you which book comes directly before and directly after Matthew. (Malachi and Mark- respectively) Remind the kids that the Gospels (Matthew - John) are the first four books in the New Testament. Explain that Jesus' sermon in Matthew 5 happened early in His ministry. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 5:1-3. Jesus sat down on a mountain near the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus taught many people while He was on earth. In His sermon, Jesus taught people how to live

in God's kingdom.

Discussion Questions

- **Why did Jesus say those who mourn are blessed?** (because they will be comforted, Matt 5:4)
- **What did Jesus compare believers to?** (salt and light, Matt 5:13-16)
- **What did Jesus come to do with the law?** (obey it perfectly, not get rid of it; Matt 5:17)
- **What are some ways God's kingdom is different from worldly kingdoms?** Guide kids to give examples about how God's kingdom is the opposite of what our hearts naturally desire. In God's kingdom, we love our enemies and consider ourselves blessed even in difficult or sad times. We give generously even to those who cannot repay. We trust God instead of ourselves, and we do good to glorify God, not to look good in front of others.
- **Why does God care so much about what's in our hearts?** Help kids understand that sinful actions always begin as sinful thoughts and desires. Remind them that it is not enough to simply avoid doing bad things. Obedience to God means we do not even think evil thoughts. Help them see that we need Jesus because only He can meet God's standard of perfection.
- **Where did Jesus' authority to teach come from?** Guide kids to think about Jesus' identity as God the Son. Remind them that He was present at creation and that He is the King of kings. His words are God's own words. His teaching is perfect.
- **How is the kingdom of God different than the world?** Clarify for kids that the kingdom of God is His rule and reign. We enter God's kingdom when we trust in Jesus and recognize His authority over our lives. God's kingdom is upside-down in many ways compared to the world. His kingdom reflects His values, such as gentleness and humility. (Read- Hebrews 12:28)
- **How can believers be lights in a dark world?** Remind kids that Jesus is the light of the world. We are to reflect Him in how we live our lives. Being a light in a dark world means bringing the truth of Jesus to places where there is darkness and lies. Believers can share the gospel with boldness and choose to live in ways that honor God. Help kids identify actions or attitudes that may be associated with "light" (honoring to God) versus "darkness" (dishonoring to God) (Read- Matthew 5:16)
- **What blessings come to those who follow Jesus?** Lead kids to recognize that God's blessings do not necessarily mean gaining prosperity on earth. Earthly blessings are good gifts, but they do not last forever and are not guaranteed. God does promise to bless us in the greatest way by giving us Jesus. He promises to transform those who trust in Jesus to make us like His Son. (Read- Ephesians 1:3)

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, sticky notes with words of Memory Verse written on several notes

What You Do:

Before the session, write the memory verse as words or phrases on separate sticky notes. Scatter the notes around the room. Display the memory verse poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 14:24-26 together.

Challenge kids to find and collect the parts of the memory verse on the sticky notes around the room. Invite kids to work together to arrange the memory verse in the correct order. When kids finish, lead them to read the memory verse together.

What You Say: "What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all scripture is about Him. Jesus' ministry on earth lasted for three years. Jesus promised that when He left, He would send the Holy Spirit to help them - and He did!"

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do: Distribute journal pages and pencils. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What do we learn about following God from today's passage?
- What is one thing that God is teaching you right now?
- Where is one area that you would like to be closer to God?
- What is your next step to keep loving, following and obeying Jesus? (Believe, Baptism)

When your kids identify their next steps, take note and circle back to them so that you can help them and give them/their parents resources to help them take their next step.

- Pray for your group. Lord God, thank You for Your Word. As we follow Jesus, help us live as light in a dark world. Help us honor You with our lives. We love You. Amen.