The Sermon on the Mount

SIX WEEKS IN MATTHEW 5 TO 7



LARKHAVEN CHURCH · SIX-WEEK GUIDE

WELCOME

The Sermon on the Mount

For six weeks we're sitting on the hillside with the crowd, listening to Jesus teach in Matthew 5 to 7. Read the passage before your group meets, then talk through the questions together. Every reference in this guide opens right on the page when you tap it.

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WEEK 1

The upside-down blessings

READ MATTHEW 5:1-12

Jesus begins with people the world overlooks: the poor in spirit, the grieving, the meek. Read Matthew 5:3 slowly. The kingdom isn't earned by the strong; it is given to people who know they need it. Compare Isaiah 61:1-3, which Jesus seems to have in mind.

TALK ABOUT IT

> Which blessing surprises you most, and why?

> Where do you feel poor in spirit right now?

> Who in your life lives Matthew 5:9 well?

WEEK 2

Salt and light

READ MATTHEW 5:13-16

You are the light of the world. Jesus doesn't say try to be light; he says you are. Read Matthew 5:14 and Philippians 2:15 side by side. Light isn't for hiding under a basket. It's for the whole house.

TALK ABOUT IT

> What dims your light most weeks?

> Name one place you could let it show this week.

> How is salt different from light as a picture?

WEEK 3

More than the rules

READ MATTHEW 5:17-48

Jesus takes the commands people knew and goes deeper, to anger, to desire, to love for enemies. Read Matthew 5:44 and Romans 12:20-21. This is the hardest teaching in the sermon, and the most freeing.

TALK ABOUT IT

> Which of these teachings is hardest for you?

> Who is hard for you to pray for?

> What would change if you did?

WEEK 4

In secret

READ MATTHEW 6:1-18

Giving, praying and fasting, done for an audience of One. The Lord's Prayer sits right in the middle (Matthew 6:9-13). Pray it together slowly, one line at a time, and stop to talk after each line.

TALK ABOUT IT

> Which line of the Lord's Prayer is easiest to rush past?

> What would a secret act of kindness look like this week?

WEEK 5

Do not worry

READ MATTHEW 6:19-34

Look at the birds of the air. Read Matthew 6:26 and 1 Peter 5:7. Worry borrows trouble from tomorrow. Jesus points us to a Father who already knows what we need, and tells us to seek his kingdom first (Matthew 6:33).

TALK ABOUT IT

> What are you carrying into this week?

> What would seeking first look like on Monday morning?

WEEK 6

The wise builder

READ MATTHEW 7:1-29

The sermon ends with two houses and one storm. Read Matthew 7:24-27. Both builders heard the words. Only one built on them. Ask, seek, knock (Matthew 7:7): the invitation is still open.

TALK ABOUT IT

> What have you heard in these six weeks that you want to build on?

> Who could you invite to ask, seek and knock with you?