

Instructions:

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.



Series: The Sermon on the Mount

The Sermon on the Mount is unique to the gospel of Matthew and central to the gospel's understanding of the kingdom of heaven. In it, Jesus is presented as a new Moses who interprets Torah and offers wisdom and practical instruction on the way to live the way God wants. The Sermon on the Mount reads like the greatest hits of Jesus' teaching, outlining a vision for an alternate way to live. It shows us that the kingdom of heaven is manifested whenever we enact God's will on earth as it is in heaven. The kingdom of God is here now, Jesus says, and here is your beginner's guide to walking as if you live there now.

Key Scripture: John 12:12-16

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NtKb7CJDUZc&list=PLH0Szn1yYNefD9pHcnyRivKRGpYGc2yfb>

Questions based on this week's teaching:

1. The words from Jesus on the sermon on the mount are some of his most famous and oft-quoted teachings. The whole collection reads like his greatest hits. There is a sense that they are so familiar that they have lost all meaning. Do you feel this tension as you read the Beatitudes, or any other portion of the sayings? What did you hear differently this week?
2. It is possible that Jesus spoke this full sermon, chapters 5-7, in one sitting, to one crowd, on one mountain. It is also possible that, as a traveling teacher/preacher, his disciples would have heard Jesus' teachings and parables with different variations many times. And so, the writer of Matthew (likely the disciple Matthew), collected and organized these teachings in a particular way to reveal the truth of the kingdom of heaven. Does this change the meaning of the sermon for you? Why does this matter? How does the organization of Matthew help to highlight the theme of Matthew of "proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of heaven"?
3. Jesus is a Jewish teacher speaking to a Jewish audience in first century Palestine in Matthew. Why does this context matter? How does it help us to understand the gospel, and more specifically, the sermon on the mount? What needs to be done for us to best apply these teachings to our lives today?
4. What is your definition of the good life? How does the translation of the word "blessed" as "the good life belongs to" in the first 9 sayings of the sermon impact how you understand them?