

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.

Message Description:

In this section of the sermon on the mount, Jesus explores what a life of greater righteousness looks like regarding our money and possessions. How we relate to our stuff tells the truth about what we really value and believe. There is a theme all throughout the Hebrew Bible that to have a good eye or bad eye is a figure of speech for being generous or being stingy. The riddle goes, if your eye is healthy (whole and generous), how great is your light! But if your eye is bad (greedy or stingy) your whole body will be full of darkness.

"Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God." Blessed are those who give generously, who are not attached to their stuff, who do not collect or hoard or live in scarcity or fear, but who rely on the provision of God and trust in the economy of his unshakeable kingdom. The whole point is that if you believe this truth about God's kingdom and God's economy, then it will change your relationship with your treasures on earth.

Key Scripture: Matthew 6:19-34

Watch: <https://bibleproject.com/guides/wealth-and-worry>

Questions based on this week's teaching and video:

1. In the video, Tim Machie notes that "Jesus says the biggest obstacle to experiencing God's heavenly life and presence is our stuff." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? How is it an obstacle?
2. What is Jesus getting at with this riddle or figure of speech of having a good eye or bad eye? How does this impact our relationship with our stuff?
3. Throughout this whole section, Jesus is addressing our priorities. What are we focused on, worried about, hoping for? How does this relate to Jesus' admonition, "do not worry about tomorrow"? In this season of life, do find it easy or hard to not worry about tomorrow?
4. What word of hope and encouragement do you take from this passage of scripture this week?