Go Disciple
Radical Kingdom

A Disciple-Making Study of
The Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 5-7
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Just for church leaders...

Make disciples! It is the foundational call of the church to make disciples... who then make more disciples. The GO Disciple resource series is designed to help the church with its ongoing mission to make disciples; disciples who look more and more like Jesus with every passing day, each and every week. Also, GO Disciple is designed to be implemented through the church’s structure and as such, will support and strengthen the church as a whole. Your Sunday School or small group structure includes outreach, shepherding, and fellowship leaders... why not a D-Group captain to get group members into disciple-making relationships?

GO Disciple is a disciple-making process that is designed to start small and grow. It follows the biblical model found in 2 Timothy 2:2; Paul, Timothy, faithful men, and then others. As a church process, GO Disciple looks like this:

![Disciple Making Process Diagram]

But for an individual church member, the process looks more like the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>God Time</td>
<td>Me and God, every day in His Word and in prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gather Time</td>
<td>Worship and Sunday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grow Time</td>
<td>D-Group experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go Time</td>
<td>On mission every day showing people that Jesus is Better</td>
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</table>

GO Disciple resources are designed with three specific things in mind.

1) Develop church members (disciples) who become self-feeders of God’s Word;
2) Replicate themselves in other people by sharing with others how they are growing;
3) Help the church develop a leadership pipeline of people who are growing in Christ-likeness and have a passion to share their experience.

The resource you now hold in your hand (or view on your tablet) is designed to help you disciple others. We know that making disciples happens best in small communities; preferably a D-Group of 4-6 people. Each week as this D-Group meets, they will: memorize Scripture, share their experiences with God, develop accountable relationships, and ultimately replicate themselves by starting a new D-Group and inviting others to draw nearer to God and to each other.

_The church’s disciple-making pathway should feed its leadership pipeline._

Daniel Im _No Silver Bullets_
What is a D-Group?

Intro

D-Groups are smaller groups of about four people who meet together regularly for the purpose of growing closer to Christ and supporting one another in biblical community. A D-Group is an excellent way for people to follow the Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20:

“All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (CSB)

Why D-Groups?

Disciples are best made in a community of close relationships. Jesus had Peter, James, and John. The apostle Paul had Timothy, Silas, and Luke. David has his inner circle of three mighty men. A D-Group is not just any group, it is a biblical group. That is... a D-Group is a smaller group of about four people who meet together to share the Word of God with each other; learn Scripture together, and support and encourage each other through prayer and relationships; and ultimately start more D-Groups and make more disciples.

Starting a D-Group

D-Groups are easy to start. Simply invite three other people to join you, plan your first get-together, decide what Bible passage the group wants to immerse themselves in, and then follow through and do it!

Consider inviting three people from your Small Group or Sunday School class. A class that has several people involved in D-Groups is going to be a great class. A D-Group will not only help the participants grow spiritually, it can also help the whole class! Or, you might invite 3 friends, neighbors, or acquaintances who are unchurched and use the D-Group to lead them to Christ.

What is Expected in a D-Group

You need a Bible. At your first D-Group meeting, see what translation everyone else is using. It is helpful (though not necessary) for everyone to have the same translation. You may also need a journal to record your thoughts and what you hear God speaking to you every day and during your group.

Develop an agreement with other group members (a group covenant), that includes expectations about attendance, preparation, accountability, and also an agreement that what is said in the group, stays in the group.
Definitions

Below is how we define some of the terms we use in a D-Group. These definitions not only bring clarity, but more precisely define a disciple-making group.

D-Group
A D-Group is a smaller group than a Sunday School class or small group. A D-Group generally has about four to five people who meet together to share the Word of God with each other; learn Scripture together; support and encourage each other through prayer, relationships, and accountability; and replicate the Gospel in other people and more groups. Because they are small, D-Groups can meet anywhere at any time.

Disciple
For our purposes, we want to keep the definition of a disciple simple and biblical. So we define a disciple as... a follower of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 4:19, Mark 1:17, Luke 9:23, John 1:43, John 12:26)

Disciple-making
Disciple-making is the process of being a disciple and making more disciples. Using the Great Commission, a disciple is a follower of Christ who:

- Invites (As you are going...)
- Establishes (Baptize into Christ and Community)
- Equips (Teach to obey)
- Sends (To make more disciples)

Spiritual Conversation
A spiritual conversation is a dialogue where God is discussed.

Gospel Conversation
A Gospel conversation is a dialogue that shares the Gospel and invites a response.

Daily Devotion
A daily devotion is a time set apart each day just for you and God. During a daily devotion, you will seek to hear God and draw near to Him as He speaks to you through His Word; make changes in your life so that you will look more like Jesus; and pray for opportunities to share Christ by having spiritual or Gospel conversations with other people.

Service
Jesus teaches us to serve others (Mark 10:45; Matthew 5:16). True service to others is an act of love meant to shine the gospel into another person’s life that will lead to spiritual and gospel conversations and bring glory to God.
Preparation for the D-Group

Daily Preparation

Devotion. Have a daily devotional time with God. Be sure that you read your Bible during this time. The Bible is God’s written word to you and there is no other substitute. During our study, there are brief Bible readings from the Sermon on the Mount that will usually take only 5-7 minutes to read. After reading, use the following process to apply what you have read to your daily life.

- **READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word?
- **REFLECT:** Meditate on today’s passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?
- **REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or spiritual or Gospel conversations?

Pray. Pray daily. Because this study of the Sermon on the Mount includes the Lord’s Prayer, begin your prayer time by praying the Lord’s Prayer. Also, there are blank pages in the back of this notebook for you to write out personal prayers to God, as well as prayer requests from your D-Group meetings.

Memorize. Your group will memorize Scripture together. Don’t freak out about this. You have already memorized many things, and hardly give them a second thought. Memorizing Scripture with your group will help you. Simply practice memorizing each week’s verse during your daily devotional time and you will be surprised at how easily it comes to you.

Weekly Preparation

Sometime during the week, find a time where you can be alone for 30-60 minutes. During this time, you are going to dig a little deeper into the Scripture passage that your group is studying. Simply use the same process you have used daily to guide you through this study.

- How has God spoken to you this week through His Word?
- Meditate on the readings for this week. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus? What have you changed to look more like Jesus?
- Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life this week for you to invest in? Write down who you have shared your spiritual growth with, what you have actually done to serve others, and any spiritual or Gospel conversations you have had with other people.
The D-Group Meeting

Below is an overview of our weekly D-Group meeting. An important thing to remember is balance the time in D-Group and keep it focused on its purpose. Light-hearted discussions of a ball game or recent experiences are okay for a short period of time, but these conversations can easily spiral out of control and limit the time the group should be spending on its real purpose – making disciples.

Group Meeting

Group Scripture Memory (15 minutes).
At each D-Group meeting, each person is expected to say the assigned Scripture memory verse for the week. In addition, each person is accountable to say all of the previous verses as well. Always do this step at the beginning of the group meeting.

D-Group Discussion (45 minutes)
During the D-Group discussion, each person in the group will do the following:

a) Each member shares with the group what they heard from God through His Word, and how they responded, by using the three questions from the daily devotions. (35 minutes)

b) Pray together. Group members share prayer concerns. Ask, “What could we pray about for you that will help during the coming week?” (10 minutes)

Memorization
People often claim that they cannot memorize. Yet, most people share information all the time that they do not have to look up. How are they able to do this? Because it is information that they frequently use, which says a lot about why people do not memorize Scripture.

The fact is, we use Scripture more often when we spend time memorizing it. You probably memorized your Social Security number because you did not want to pull your card out of your wallet every time you were asked for it.

Using Matthew 5:3, here is a model to memorize Scripture.

- Read the chapter through two or three times at one sitting to get familiar with the context and with the overall theme of the chapter.
- Memorize the first verse. Write the verse on an index card and include the reference (book, chapter, verse – EX: Matthew 5:3).
- When memorizing a chapter or a long passage, focus on the words and not necessarily the verse numbers.
- Say the verse out loud several times. Verbalizing the verse helps you remember it.
- Consider recording yourself saying the verses into your smart phone. Replay it and try to say the verse with the recording.
- Repeat the process above with the next verse.
• Use the “study sheets” available at www.reconnectss.com
• Now practice saying verses 3 and 4 together without pausing between verses.
• Each week, add the next verse or two to memorize. At the end of your devotion time, practice saying the passage or verses from memory, starting from verse first verse through to the most recent memorized verse.

**Group Scripture Memory**
Accountability is a vital part of memorizing Scripture. We are more likely to do something if we know that we will be asked to produce it later. Here are some tips for the group’s Scripture memorization time.

• Always start with Scripture memory. If memorizing Scripture is done last, the group will often run short on time and skip the memorization time.
• The group leader should always share first. Leaders lead!
• Call on someone to share next. You can ask for volunteers too. The phrase “Make a friend” is a friendly way to encourage group members to call on each other during the group share time.
• Be gracious. Sometimes people have a busy week and are unable to memorize the verse. Help them through it. Avoid being legalistic toward each other. It might be you next time.

**Replicate**
Replication simply means to duplicate or reproduce. For a disciple of Jesus Christ, replicate means to reproduce the image of Christ. Replication occurs individually, but it also occurs person-to-person, and it also occurs with the group. A D-Group should replicate in three ways.

1) Replicate your spiritual experience. Share with others what God is showing you through your D-Group or personal devotions. Simply share what you have learned about God each week with someone else like a family member, neighbor, co-worker, or team mate.
2) Replicate your group. D-Groups are easy to start and lead. After your D-Group has met for a while (no longer than six months), the group should start the process of forming new D-Groups. Perhaps the group of four could form two groups with two members in each group. Each group of two invites two new people, forming two D-Groups.
3) Replicate your faith. Jesus’ commission to His disciples was to make more disciples. More disciples occurs when believers share their faith with lost people. A new D-Group is a great opportunity to invite a lost friend to join the group. Also, the D-Group experience prepares each group member to share their faith personally with other people.
Disciple-making Process

Many people, some whom have attended church for years, do not know how to make a disciple. The fact is that we tend to imitate what other people like parents and Sunday School teachers model. Since much of the emphasis of Christianity today consists of attending worship and giving an offering, many of our leaders have never been discipled either.

The D-Group process is designed to both model being a disciple and encourage further multiplication of more disciples by using the D-Group process. A smaller group of people (recommend four), meeting together for spiritual disciplines, Bible study, prayer, and accountability is a basic element of disciple-making. This process can be replicated a number of times. If committed to, this process can see the generations of disciples represented in 2 Timothy 2:2:

Four Generations of Disciples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation</th>
<th>____________________________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generation 1</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generation 2</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generation 3</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generation 4</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unfortunately, most efforts at disciple-making rarely make it past generation 2, yet the real multiplication begins with Generation 3.

In the space below, write the names of three people with whom you could start a new D-Group.

_______________________________________
_______________________________________
_______________________________________
Some Suggestions to Get Started

Bible Translation
We use the ESV (English Standard Version) for Group Study Time. You may choose any translation you prefer for your personal study and memorization.

- Version ______________________________________________
- Translation ___________________________________________
- Paraphrase ___________________________________________

What Kind of Bible
There are different types of Bibles? Yes, we will go over some of the different types of Bibles, but I suggest you use a “reference Bible”. Reference Bibles include other Bible verses that relate to the passages being studied. More about this at the first meeting. However, if purchasing another Bible is not in your budget, use the one you already have!

Different Translation
The Bible in a different translation can sometimes help you better understand the meaning of the passage.
Radical Kingdom...
A Disciple-making Study of the Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 5-7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Memory verses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Matthew 5:13-26</td>
<td>Salt and Light</td>
<td>Matthew 5:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Matthew 5:27-48</td>
<td>Sins of the Heart</td>
<td>Matthew 5:4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Matthew 6:1-18</td>
<td>The Lord’s Prayer</td>
<td>Matthew 5:6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Matthew 6:19-34</td>
<td>Treasures vs Anxiety</td>
<td>Matthew 5:8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Matthew 7:1-15</td>
<td>The Narrow Gate</td>
<td>Matthew 5:9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Matthew 7:16-29</td>
<td>Good Fruit</td>
<td>Matthew 5:11-12</td>
</tr>
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For more information about GO Disciple D-Groups, contact your pastor or church office, or contact the Sunday School office at the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma at 405.942.3000 ext. 4656 or on the web at reconnectss.com/go-disciple/
Introduction Notes
Day One

This week’s “Be” verse - Matthew 5:1-3

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the _______ in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of______________.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Two

Scripture Passage - Matthew 5:13-16

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the ________ in __________, for theirs is the kingdom of________________.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Three

Scripture Passage - Matthew 5:17-20

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the _______ in __________, for theirs is the ______________ of______________.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Four

Scripture Passage - Matthew 5:21-26

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:
Matthew 5:3
_____________ are the _______ in __________, for theirs is the ___________ of______________.

Prayer
Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Personal Devotion  
Week One

Day Five

Scripture Passage - Matthew 5:1-26

**READ:** How has God spoken to you this week through His Word?

**REFLECT:** Meditate on this week’s passages. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

- What needs to change?
- What have you changed?

**REPLICATE:** Who did the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation? What did you do?

- Who did I serve this week?
- Spiritual conversations
- Gospel conversations

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:3

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Week One Notes
Day One

This week’s “Be” verse - Matthew 5:4-5

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:4-5

Blessed are those who __________, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the __________, for they shall inherit the earth.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Two

Scripture Passage - Matthew 5:27-32

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:
Matthew 5:4-5
Blessed are those who __________, for they shall be _________. Blessed are the __________, for they shall ______________ the earth.

**Prayer**
Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Three

Scripture Passage - Matthew 5:33-42

**READ**: How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT**: Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE**: Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:4-5

Blessed are ________ who __________, for they shall be _________. _________ are the ________, for they shall ____________ the earth.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Four

Scripture Passage - Matthew 5:43-48

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:
Matthew 5:4-5

___________ are _________ who __________, for they shall be __________. _________ are the _________, for they shall ______________ the earth.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Five

Scripture Passage - Matthew 5:27-48

READ: How has God spoken to you this week through His Word?

REFLECT: Meditate on this week’s passages. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

- What needs to change?
- What have you changed?

REPLICATE: Who did the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation? What did you do?

- Who did I serve this week?
- Spiritual conversations
- Gospel conversations

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:4

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Week Two Notes
Day One

Scripture Passage – Matthew 5:6-7

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:6-7

Blessed are those who ____________ and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the ____________, for they shall receive mercy.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Two

Scripture Passage - Matthew 6:1-8

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:6-7

Blessed are those who ___________ and thirst for ______________ for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the ______________, for they shall receive ____________.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Three

Scripture Passage - Matthew 6:9-15

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:6-7

Blessed are those who ___________ and ___________ for _______________ for they shall be ___________. Blessed are the ______________, for they shall receive _____________.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Four

Scripture Passage - Matthew 6:16-18

READ: How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

REFLECT: Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

REPLICATE: Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:
Matthew 5:6-7
________________ are those who _____________ and _________ for _______________ for they shall be ___________. ______________ are the ______________, for they shall ___________________.

Prayer
Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Five

Scripture Passage - Matthew 6:1-18

**READ:** How has God spoken to you this week through His Word?

**REFLECT:** Meditate on this week’s passages. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

- What needs to change?
- What have you changed?

**REPLICATE:** Who did the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation? What did you do?

- Who did I serve this week?
- Spiritual conversations
- Gospel conversations

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:6-7

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Week Three Notes
Day One

This week’s “Be” verse - Matthew 5:8

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the _____________ in heart, for they shall see God.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Two

Scripture Passage - Matthew 6:19-24

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the _____________ in heart, for they shall ______________ God.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Three

Scripture Passage - Matthew 6:25-30

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the ____________ in _____________, for they shall _____________ God.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Four

Scripture Passage - Matthew 6:31-34

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:
Matthew 5:8
________________ are the ______________ in _____________, for __________ shall ____________ God.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Personal Devotion
Week Four

Day Five

Scripture Passage - Matthew 6:19-34

**READ:** How has God spoken to you this week through His Word?

**REFLECT:** Meditate on this week’s passages. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

- What needs to change?
- What have you changed?

**REPLICATE:** Who did the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation? What did you do?

- Who did I serve this week?
- Spiritual conversations
- Gospel conversations

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:8

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Personal Devotion  
Week Five  

Day One  
This week’s “Be” verse - Matthew 5:9-10  

READ: How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)  

REFLECT: Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?  

REPLICATE: Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?  

This week’s memory verse:  
Matthew 5:9-10  
Blessed are the ___________________, for they shall be called the sons of God. Blessed are those who are__________________ for righteousness sake, for theirs is the ________________ of heaven.  

Prayer  
Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Two

Scripture Passage - Matthew 7:1-6

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:9-10

Blessed are the ________________, for they shall be called the _____ of God. Blessed are those who are________________ for __________________ sake, for theirs is the ________________ of heaven.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Three

Scripture Passage - Matthew 7:7-12

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:9-10

Blessed are the ___________________, for they shall be called the _____ of God. ________ are those who are________________ for __________________ sake, for theirs is the ________________ of ___________________.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Personal Devotion
Week Five

Day Four

Scripture Passage - Matthew 7:13-14

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:9-10

_________ are the ________________, for they ______ be called the _____ of God.

________ are those who are____________________ for ________________ sake, for ________ is the

________________ of ____________________.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Day Five

Scripture Passage - Matthew 7:1-14

**READ:** How has God spoken to you this week through His Word?

**REFLECT:** Meditate on this week’s passages. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

- What needs to change?
- What have you changed?

**REPLICATE:** Who did the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation? What did you do?

- Who did I serve this week?
- Spiritual conversations
- Gospel conversations

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:9-10

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Week Five Notes
Day One

This week’s “Be” verse - Matthew 5:11-12

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:11

Blessed are you when people __________you, ______________you and falsely say all kinds of __________ against you because of me.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Personal Devotion
Week Six

Day Two

Scripture Passage - Matthew 7:15-20

READ: How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

REFLECT: Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

REPLICATE: Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:
Matthew 5:11
Blessed are you when ____________ persecute you, insult you and ____________ say all kinds of evil ____________ you because of me.

Prayer
Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Personal Devotion
Week Six

Day Three

Scripture Passage - Matthew 7:21-23

READ: How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

REFLECT: Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

REPLICATE: Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:
Matthew 5:11
____________ are you when __________ persecute you, insult you and __________ say all ___________ of evil ___________ you because of me.

Prayer
Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Personal Devotion  
Week Six

Day Four

Scripture Passage - Matthew 7:24-29

**READ:** How has God spoken to you today through His Word? (Write words that you highlighted or underlined while you read the Bible. These words are likely how God is speaking to you.)

**REFLECT:** Meditate on what you underlined in the daily passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

**REPLICATE:** Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation?

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:11

Blessed are you ____________ people persecute you, insult you and falsely _______all kinds of evil against you _____________ of me.

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Personal Devotion
Week Six

Day Five

Scripture Passage - Matthew 7:15-29

**READ:** How has God spoken to you this week through His Word?

**REFLECT:** Meditate on this week’s passages. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

- What needs to change?
- What have you changed?

**REPLICATE:** Who did the Holy Spirit put in your life for you to invest in through service, or through a spiritual or Gospel conversation? What did you do?

- Who did I serve this week?
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- Gospel conversations

This week’s memory verse:

Matthew 5:9-10

Prayer

Pray the Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13
Week Six Notes
Prayer Journal
Sermon on the Mount Notes

Intro

Expectations:

- Show up – “Most of life is just showing up.”
- Daily devos – to the best of your ability, complete the daily devos, 5 per week
- Church goer – Bible reading stats, “Read the Bible for Life.”
  - Read Bible daily 19%
  - A few times a week 26%
  - Once a week 14%
  - Once a month 22%
  - Seldom/Never 18%
- Pray daily – for Sermon on the Mount, pray the Lord’s Prayer daily
- Memorize – the one or two verses per week
- Replicate, replicate – share with someone else
  - New growth
  - New groups
  - New believers

About Daily Devos:

- Memory verse is Day 1
- Days 2-4 are about one-fourth of a chapter
- Day 5 is half of a chapter + review

1. Read – How has God spoken to you today through His word? (highlights, underlines, etc.)

2. Reflect – Reflect on today’s passage. What needs to change in your life for you to look more like Jesus?

3. Replicate – Who has the Holy Spirit put in your life to invest in?
   Four Generations of Disciples – 2 Timothy 2:2
   Generation 1
   Generation 2
   Generation 3
   Generation 4
D-Group Meeting:
  - 15 minutes – Scripture memory
  - 20-30 minutes – Group sharing
  - 15-20 minutes – Deep dive

Bible:
  - Version: KJV, ESV, NIV
  - Translation: Phillips
  - Paraphrase: Message
  - Also: Study Bibles, Reference Bibles, Journaling Bible, Personal Bible

Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5-7

Greatest Sermon Ever – Jesus spoke it.

- Announcement of a new age

Prior to Jesus – Mosaic Law, the 10 Commandments

- Scribes added additional laws to make the 10 Commandments more bearable

- What happens when you add or compromise God’s law?
  1. You elevate yourself: “Self” becomes pride and is ultimately our biggest problem (Luke 9:23)
  2. You minimize God: attempt to make God smaller

The Sermon on the Mount reveals any adjectives we may have added to our faith.

Mickey Cohen – well known 1950s gangster. Receptive to the Gospel and “professed.” However, there was no fruit. Cohen’s reasoning – there are Christian football players, Christian artists, Christian Cowboys. He was a “Christian gangster.”
5:1 – Saw the crowd, went up on the mountain and sat and taught his disciples while the crowd listened.

**The Beatitudes:**

First and last both include “the kingdom of heaven.” In Hebrew style that is like a parenthesis or bookends, everything in between relates to that theme.

**Blessed – What does blessed mean?**

Approval – God’s approval, related to happy

Happy – an emotional state

Approval – an inward state, something we yearn for

From what or whom do people seek approval?

Friends, peers, neighbors, relatives, pastor, mentor, parents (Billy Graham’s daughter)

The Beatitudes lead us to seek God’s approval above all else.

We tend to separate the beatitudes as if they are independent of each other. Actually, each beatitude builds on the previous ones.

5:3 – Blessed are the **poor in spirit** for **theirs** is the kingdom of heaven.

What does this beatitude say: Poor? Or poor in spirit?

It doesn’t mean poor as in without wealth (Greek word: Ptochos – beggarly, poor, unable to sustain himself without help. Dependent.)

It doesn’t mean shyness

It doesn’t mean absence of self-worth (1 Cor. 6:20 and 7:23 – We have great value)

It means spiritually bankrupt. Humility, humble in spirit.

Rewritten: Blessed are those who realize that they have nothing within themselves to commend them to God, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Uriah Heep – David Copperfield, reminded everyone about his humility

Theirs: Who gets the kingdom of heaven? The poor in spirit!

Truth: No one comes to Christ unless you are poor in spirit. (Eph. 2:8-9, Rom. 11:6)

Psalm 34:18 – The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
Matt 5:4 – Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Paradox – Beatitudes, what they promise for what they demand doesn’t make sense to the natural man

**Blessed** are those who **mourn**. Blessing and mourning together = happy are the sad.

Does our Snapchat culture elevate or diminish mourning?

Jesus – What does Jesus want us to mourn over? OUR SIN!

2 Cor. 7:10-11: For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation. We should always be broken over our sin! But not despairing, not self-pity or false humility.

Read Romans 7:21-25

While we live in the flesh we will have many victories over sin, but not a permanent victory. Every day we must start over.

The mark of a mature disciple is not being without sin, but a growing awareness of sinfulness.

The sooner the disease of sin is dealt with the sooner the comfort will come.

How to mourn:

1. Eliminate hindrances
   a. Stop loving your sin
   b. Don’t despair – despair is giving up on God
   c. Don’t minimalize it – “It’s just a little sin.” If Jesus died for it, then it is a big sin.
   d. Don’t presume – Presumption is thinking you only need a little grace and you can do the rest.
   e. Don’t procrastinate – deal with it.

2. Get into God’s word, “Thy word I have hid in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Ps. 119:11

3. Pray for a contrite heart. Ps. 51:17

**Salt and Light 5:13-16**

Salt – how is it used?

In this context, it prevents decay. A world without God is a world in decay. Mankind thinks the more enlightened we become, the better the world becomes. The opposite is true.

Donald McGavran – *Bridges of God*. Every culture the Gospel reaches always gets better

Light – how is it used?

Ancient towns often made white limestone – gleamed
“A community of Jesus which tries to hide itself is no longer following Jesus.”
-Bonhoeffer

Fulfill the Law

Read 5:17-20

Fulfill – Complete what is already present. Jesus doesn’t just teach the law or live the law – He was the law.

High view of Scripture – Scripture is the final authority

“You do not judge over Scripture, Scripture is the judge over you.”

Not a single iota or stroke – iota smallest letter, stroke smallest mark

Scripture affirms Christ and Christ affirms Scripture

Anger

Have you ever heard, “I believe most people are really good on the inside”? T or F

Two-Gun Crowley was a murderer in prison. A note found in his coat read, “I may have done some bad things, but deep down I’m not really that bad.” Is it possible for a model citizen to be as guilty of murder as anyone on death row? Jesus would say yes!

Jesus’ main point is that the best of people in their hearts are sinful and not any better than the worst of people.

Read 5:21-26

Jesus talks about anger in three ways:

V. 22 – Angry with his brother – Greek orgizo – simmering brooding anger at another person. Selfish anger.

V. 22 – “Raca”: Arrogant contempt, Ps. 140:3 – poison a viper. To slander a person made in God’s image is to slander God Himself. We live in a world where beauty rules.

V. 22 – “Fool” – Greek moros – stupid, dull, godless

Does inner sin affect our worship?

V. 23-26

V. 23 – “so if” = Therefore

Internal sin and outward acts of worship are not compatible.
Read Matt. 5:27-48

Including vs. 21-26, Jesus is calling us to radical righteousness in these areas:

- Anger
- Sexual purity
- Marriage
- Promise keeping
- Retaliation
- Love

5:27-30

How twisted is our society’s view on sexuality?

- There are no more constants
- No more truth
- Relationship only of value as they are mutually fulfilling
- Sexual satisfaction of any type is a human right

Left to ourselves, humanity will always lower the bar to fulfill our lust.

Jesus puts the bar where no one can jump over it.

Mental infidelity is infidelity—we are all guilty.

Mental fantasy precedes the act itself. 2 Samuel 11:1-4

Wandering eyes become adulterous eyes. Job 31:1, 7, 9

Control your mind, control your heart. Phil. 4:8

When conduct and theology collide, one has to change.

5:31-32 – Divorce

Gen. 2:23-24, Divorce was inconceivable before the fall. God’s ideal is enduring love and commitment.

Under the law, any person caught in adultery was stoned.

Roman law made death sentence almost impossible, so Jews turned to divorce.

Jesus permits divorce but does not command it. It’s permitted for adultery.

Take Jesus’ radical righteousness on divorce and compare it to our culture’s view on marriage; a contractual arrangement that can be broken.
5:33-37 – Radical Truth

Oaths in the O.T. included God’s name. (Lev. 19:12, Num. 30:2, Dt. 23:21)

Rabbis began teaching that if you made a promise but didn’t make it in God’s name, the promise could be broken.

Promise making became deceptive (promise made to another that you had no intention of keeping)

Jesus says to make no oath at all. He is saying you do not need to swear you are telling the truth.

The reason we swear to the truth is because we are liars.

Jesus in effect is saying there is no need to swear if you are telling the truth.

Look at Jesus’ own example – Matt. 26:63-64

5:38-42 – Radical Behavior

An eye for an eye (Ex. 21:24, Lev. 24:20)

God gave this law to prevent excessive vengeance. If a guy knocked one of your teeth, you were not allowed to kill off his entire family. Small infractions bring small responses.

A slap on the right cheek was considered an insult.

TV show – people rapping insults at each other

Jesus is saying don’t even trade insults.

5:43-48 – Radical Love

Limited vs. Unlimited love

5:43 – limited love: only those like you or people you like

5:44 – unlimited love: love those who don’t like or love you

- To return evil for good is devilish
- To return good for good is human
- To return good for evil is divine

-Alfred Plummer
Unlimited love:

1. Conforms us into God’s image
2. Distinguishes us from the world
3. Prays for those who persecute us

Is there anything about your love that can be explained as more than natural love?

Loving someone you dislike (ok, hate) may not change them, but it WILL change you!
Read Matt. 6:18

As we read, circle the number of times the word “secret” appears.

6:1-4 – Giving to the poor

Chapter 5 – about realizing we never measure up, but as we practice spiritual poverty, humility, spiritual thirst, peacemaking, etc. we actually begin to practice the righteousness of the kingdom.

Anger, adulterous thoughts, gossip, and retaliation begin to slowly disappear.

This growing righteousness becomes a new danger – self-righteousness.

6:1 – practicing righteousness to be seen by others.

Result: no reward – ZERO!

If you do a good deed for recognition – absolute zero credit in heaven.

Example: vs. 2-4

6:2 – Alms giving (helping the needy)

Explain “sound no trumpet”

a. Blowing a trumpet
b. Shofar shaped receptacle for dropping coins for the needy, twisted shape keeps thieves from reaching in and stealing money

Like celebrity benefits, having a plaque with your name on it at Falls Creek – they have received their reward!

6:3 – left hand/right hand

a. Do it in secret so others don’t know
b. Do not even congratulate yourself!

6:4 – God rewards!

Men who do works to be seen by men receive the approval of men.

Men who do works to be seen by God receive the approval of God.

Read Matt. 6:5-7 – Prayer

Luke 18:11-12

6:5-6 – Synagogue prayer was done standing before the copy of the Law

Jesus did not condemn public prayer. He was condemning the desire to be seen praying publically. (Acts 1:24, 3:1, 4:24)

6:7 – your heart impresses Jesus more than your words.
Question: Is it possible to pray and sin at the same time?

Avoid playing to the crowd.

6:8 – God knows everything – Psalm 139:8, “If I ascend to heaven, you are there. If I make my bed in sheol, you are there.”

6:9-13

6 Petitions of the Lord’s Prayer

Bonhoeffer – “The Lord’s Prayer is not merely a pattern of prayer, it is the way Christians must pray.”

vs. 9 – Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. God is called Father in the Old Testament 14 times, never as a relationship but as the Father of Israel addressing God as Father was revolutionary!

In the Gospels God is called Father 60 times. Jesus moved our relationship with God from doctrine to personal experience.

Our – God is our Father, and we are His family.

Name – what does your name mean?

To Jews, their name is everything. It indicated character.

Hallow – set apart as holy. Reverence.

1. Do not profane God’s name
2. Worship is more than the sermon
3. Our thoughts and beliefs must be worthy of Him. The deeper our understanding, the deeper our reverence and worship.
4. Live a life that honors God’s holiness

We need godly, human role models.

6:10 – “Will be done”

God’s will is a present reality and a future occurrence

Your will be done in my life now. God’s revealed will – be obedient to what you know.

God’s fullness or full will when He returns.

6:11 – Daily bread, rely on God daily

6:12 – Greek indicates we should forgive others before asking God for forgiveness
6:13 – Lead us not into temptation

Allow us to be spared from difficult circumstances that would tempt us to sin.

God does allow trials

*Believers should never pray for tempting situations

6:14-18

Forgiving others indicates true repentance

Fasting – bring notice

What is a contemporary observance of calling attention to your piety?

-Ash Wednesday
Read Matt. 6:19-34

Bertha Adams was a 71 year-old woman who died alone.

- Her home was a pigpen
- She begged money for food from her neighbors
- 2 safety deposit box keys were found – Bertha was a millionaire but feared running out of money

What part of the human soul do advertisers appeal to? “More! You don’t have enough! You need more!”

Heritage – Research – Typical poor person in America

- Has a car
- Air conditioning
- 2 televisions
- Cable or satellite
- DVD player
- Larger home than a middle class European
- Overweight
- Has access to healthcare
- Most have a computer

6:19 – moth and rust eat

6:20 – rust: translates eat, as in worms eating food, rust also destroyed coins, made them unusable
moth: eat clothing, clothing was a primary sign of wealth 2,000 years ago.

Thieves – no banks. People his their money in their house

6:21 – Your heart belongs to what it treasures the most.

Loving riches or possessions more than God is a subtle form of idolatry
Heart means more than your affections, heart is the core of who we are
So whatever happens to our treasure will happen to us, because that is where your heart is.

Four Soul-Searching Questions:

1. What occupies your thoughts when you have nothing to do?
2. What do you worry about often?
3. Aside from family, whom or what do you dread losing?
4. What do we measure other people by?
   a. Clothes, money, house, car
   b. We generally measure other people by what WE treasure
6:22-23 – In Jewish tradition

- A good eye = generous heart, Prov. 11:25
- A bad eye = stingy heart, Prov. 28:22

Four Things a Cloudy Eye Causes:

1. Clouds our vision of success, we don’t have enough
2. Clouds our vision of other people’s worth
3. Clouds our vision of our family
4. Distorts our vision of God’s will for our lives

Dark eyes do not allow us to diminish ourselves (John 3:3, John 12:24)

Anxiety – Kierkegaard, “And no Grand Inquisitor has in readiness such terrible tortures as has anxiety!”

6:25-26 – Do not be anxious

If God is capable of doing great things for us and He is...He can take care of the small stuff, too.

Self-indulgence focuses on food, drink, and clothing, plus the money to have all three.

Culture – You are a body to be entertained, fed, watered, and clothed.

Jesus says you are more than a body. You are a soul. (Psalms for Your Soul)

6:27 – You cannot add to your lifespan through worrying

6:28-31 – God takes care of the birds. There are millions of birds and they are carefree and happy – watch a bird for 10 minutes.

Lillies of the field – look at any flower and it is magnificent.

God does nothing halfway.

God gave us life, and He will maintain it as long as He wants.

6:32 – If we are anxious, we look like the secular world. Look at the coverage at a red carpet celebrity event. The preening, the number of cameras, and the obsession over food, clothing, and entertainment. A Super Bowl half-time show.

6:33 – Seek the kingdom. Enjoy it and participate in it.

DO NOT accept a substitute that will darken your soul.
Read Matt. 7:1-14

Memory verses: Matt. 5:9-10

5:9 – Peacemakers: in the last 3,421 years, only 268 saw no war. So what did Jesus mean?

Peace – Shalom = well-being, wholeness

Maker – not passive, but active

A person who pursues wholesomeness to the fullest extent.

Peacemakers are NOT:

- Laissez-faire, uncaring
- Always tolerant
- Appeasement, peace at any price. This puts off inevitable conflict.

Peacemakers ARE:

- Honest
- Risk pain
- Positive
- Pursue reconciliation

As the Son of God, Jesus lived to bring reconciliation. As sons and daughters of God we are to bring the ministry of reconciliation. (1 Cor. 5:18)

Peacemakers model the character of God.

5:10 – Persecuted – next session with v.11

Matt. 7:1-14

7:1-6 – A son brought his girlfriends home to meet his parents and his mom hated all of them. He finally brought home a girlfriend that was just like his mom and his mom lover her, but his dad hated her.

Criticism is NOT a spiritual gift.

The world loves opinionated, critical people who agree with their own opinions. On art, politics, music and culture. The world loves judgmental people who agree with them.

The world hates conventional godly morality; Christians are to have flabby, non-judgmental morals.
Jesus is not saying we are not to judge, but that we will be judged in accordance with our own judgmentalism.

1. Speck and the log
2. Give holy to dogs
3. Pearls to swine

**Speck and log** – The eye is the most delicate part of your body. Getting a speck out of your eye is a delicate task. Your soul is also delicate. Correcting the soul is delicate work. A big piece of wood would not only hurt, it would blind. Removing it will enable you to see clearly.

**Feeding a dog** – Jesus probably referring to feeding a dog sacrificial meat. A dog would have no appreciation of the sacredness of the meat.

**Pearls to swine** – Pigs were unclean animals and symbolize wicked people. Pigs would not appreciate pearls and would trample them in the pig sty. Pearls are insight and wisdom, the Gospel. So pigs trample on the Gospel.

We pass judgment every day and scripture supports this: 1 John 4:1, John 7:24, Matt 7:5

Jesus is addressing the spirit of how we judge or criticize others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condemning Judgment</th>
<th>Discerning Judgment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Destructive</td>
<td>1. Constructive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Revels in criticizing others</td>
<td>2. Takes caution &amp; searches himself first</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Proud</td>
<td>3. Humble</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Corruptive</td>
<td>5. Healthy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

7:7-11 – About Prayer

Ask — Not about earthly desires, but for us to have the character of the kingdom in our life.

Seek — adds action, ask first and then do something

Knock — Asking + Seeking + Perseverance. Knock until someone answers the door.

Pray with persistence. Language here is the present imperative – keep on asking, keep on seeking.

Ask – requesting a need from a superior

Seek – adds action, ask first and then do something

Knock – Asking + Seeking + Perseverance. Knock until someone answers the door.
Beatitudes: Do we “ask, seek, knock” for:

...a pure mind?
...for meekness?
...for righteousness?
...for mercy?
...for peace?
...for repentance (poor in spirit and mourn over sin)

**Ask for things that make us more like Jesus!**

Perseverance is the key:

There is an ocean of difference between the spiritual impact of our daily devotion and 180 consecutive daily devotions.

7:12 – The Golden Rule

The standard for human relationships! Why is it the standard?

*Because it’s how Jesus treated others.*

7:13-14 – Narrow the gate and the hard road

7:13 – What do we do at the narrow gate?

*We enter it!*

Too many people stand at the gate and listen. Jesus says, “Enter” it.

Enter first, then follow the narrow path. God’s truth and our life as a disciple is not a democratic process. Jesus is the way. He is the truth, He is the life.

**The NARROW WAY**

- Narrowed affections – Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Matt. 22:37-38
- Narrowed conduct – There are things we must not do.

**Biblical Truth**

1. You don’t accidentally enter the narrow gate
2. You must choose the gate and the road. The narrow road leads to eternal life, the broad road to destruction.

Deuteronomy 30:19 – I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life that you and your offspring may live.
Read Matt. 7:15-29

False Christianity served on fine china is still false.

7:15-20

How does Jesus tell us to distinguish false prophets?

1. Wolf wearing sheep’s clothing – ultimately they will take off their “Christian” clothing. Christianity is not something you take off and put on. It is who you are. A wolf does not grow a sheep’s coat.
2. Their fruits – false prophets bear bad fruit: division, gossip, slander, falsehood

Kent Hughes – Four doctrinal tests for a false prophet

1. False prophets rarely preach on holiness, righteousness, justice, or God’s wrath. These topics scare away unbelievers.
2. They don’t preach on final judgment or hell – neither do Mormon’s or Jehovah’s Witness
3. They never emphasize the depravity of humanity, never teach on sin
4. False prophets de-emphasize the substitutionary death and atonement of Christ.

False Prophet? Time and fruit will tell.

7:21-23

Jesus is talking about “cultural Christianity”. America is full of cultural Christians.

For some people, the narrow gate and difficult road from Matt. 6:13-14 is actually the easiest path.

Intellectual knowledge is not the same as true belief.

7:21 – “will of my Father” – Context is the Sermon on the Mount. Will of my Father – are the Beatitudes becoming a part of who you are. Are you developing the character and conduct about God’s Kingdom. Heart obedience to hunger and seek God. Matt 6:33

7:21-23 – are about lip service

7:24-27 – are about life style

Two identical houses. A storm comes. One house stands, the other collapses.

True believers stand through life’s storms

False believers collapse
BONUS

Matt. 8:1-4 – The Sermon on Display

The Leper

Leprosy is a horrible disease, incurable. This man is hopeless:

• He’s been to a doctor
• His hair is falling out
• Losing his skin
• Must wear rags and shout “unclean”
• Not allowed within 10 ft. of anyone

This leper had not been touched by a human in years.

What beatitudes does the leper have?

• Poor in spirit
• Mourning
• Meek
• Merciful
• Hungers and thirsts

He kneels, hopeless, but asks Jesus, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

Beatitudes + Faith

Jesus touches a leper in full view of the crowd
Bibliography


