

Sermon on the Mount Study Guide

In preparation for our study,

1. Please listen to my interview with David Wooddell, our speaker this year for the Men's retreat. There are two podcasts with him entitled "What does Kingdom life look like?" Please listen to both as we prepare for the next four week study:

Podcast one: [Click here](#)

Podcast two: [Click here](#)

2. Read the attached articles entitled "Comments on the Sermon on the Mount."

Then, each week, I recommend we do the following:

1. Read through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5,6,7) at home at least three times. Try to use different translations (you can find these in many locations online such as Bible Gateway or [Blue Letter Bible](#)). It takes about 15-20 minutes to just sit down and read straight through it.
2. As you read, jot down any problem or confusing passages and any questions that arise. We likely won't be able to address them completely, but I look forward to interacting with each of you and seeing how the Holy Spirit is showing you things that I have not seen.
3. Then choose a few verses, maybe a paragraph, to paraphrase. This means to simply restate them in your own words, trying not use the words already in the passage. Some Bibles naturally divide passages into paragraphs with titles and that might be a useful unit to use to paraphrase. For example in my Bible, Matthew 5:17-20 is set apart as a paragraph entitled "Christ fulfills the Law." As an example, I might paraphrase that section as follows:

"Jesus came to earth to complete what the Old Testament promised. With absolute certainty, everything promised in the Old Testament will be totally completed; nothing will be missed. One's place in the coming kingdom is determined by how you live and teach others. If you follow the law and teach others to do that, you will be honored in the coming kingdom. But watch out if you don't! In fact, you'll need to be more perfect than the Pharisees to even enter the coming kingdom!"

4. Paraphrase just one section, not the whole passage!
5. Then, be ready to share, "What is He calling me to do in response?"

When we gather, we'll share the paraphrase that we have written out, share the questions we have about anything we have read, and finally share what we see God calling us to do in response.

Complete by	Read this passage
March 4	Matthew 5:1-30
March 11	Matthew 5:31 - 6:15
March 18	Matthew 6:16 - 7:6
March 25	Matthew 7:7-29