

Seeing Different

IN A WORLD THAT SEES THE SAME



A 13-Week Fun-Filled Study Exploring
the Sermon on the Mount with Your Kids

from
Unfold the **Family**

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Deep within your heart's caverns lies a dream of the life you've always yearned for. Pause. Breathe. Reflect on that for a moment. Have you ever sensed there must be more to life with Jesus? Have you felt that longing, that hunger for genuine joy and profound peace? There is incredible news for you: Jesus is inviting everyone, everywhere, into a new way to live that changes everything. He is inviting you into a world powered by love, beckoning you to embrace His original design for you—to embrace the greatest commandment: love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. It's an invitation to live as He created you to live. But what does that mean in our broken world? Jesus is inviting you to discover life in its fullest expression. The question remains: will you and your family accept His invitation? Beyond your response awaits the life you've always desired.



Week 1:
#BLESSED

Week 2:
CAN YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

Week 3:
THE B-I-B-L-E

Week 4:
PEACE OUT + PEACE IN

Week 5:
YOU HAVE MY WORD

Week 6:
GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Week 7:
RADICAL LOVE

Week 8:
AUDIENCE OF ONE

Week 9:
FOREVER TREASURE

Week 10:
WHAT YOU SEEK IS WHAT YOU GET

Week 11:
SOMETHING'S IN MY EYE

Week 12:
HOW DO YOU SUM THIS UP?

Week 13:
YOUR RESPONSE IS EVERYTHING



Here is your guide!

This is a 13-week series focused on Jesus's Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7.

Each week will have a specific passage of Scripture that your family will focus on for that entire week.

Each week is structured with five objectives. You will complete one of these objectives each day.

With each of the five days, you will uniquely engage your head, heart, and hands.

Each week will follow the same structure. Day 1 will take approximately 30-60 minutes. Days 2-5 will take roughly 10-15 minutes. We have created these subsequent days with the intent that they are short enough for you to consistently start or end your day with them. Every day builds on the previous day. Below is the overview of how each day of the week will work.

Day One: Activity Day!

We want fun and faith to collide in your family! This day sets the trajectory for the entire week. This is the priority day. If you only have time to do one of the days, do the Activity Day! This will ignite your fun together as a family and your meaningful conversations around Jesus. This day will require the most time (typically 30-60 minutes). During Day 1 you will do the Unfold the Family activity. Then, through a series of questions, we will help you connect the activity to the biblical theme for the week. You will end this day by reading the passage of Scripture and praying.

What you need to know for Activity Day:

- Read Day 1 content to yourself before your family time so you can be prepared (it will take you 2-4 minutes). Keep in mind that the Overview section is only for you, the parent, to help you understand where we are going with the activity. Then, complete the following in this order. †
 - Start your family time with The Game section.
 - Read and discuss the Unfold the Heart questions with your child.
 - Read the passage, and pray together.

Day Two: Know His Word



We want your family to put God's Word in your heads! This day is focused on **memorizing** the Scripture passage or verse for the week. Each week you will read the memory verse aloud, and then we will provide a fun and creative way to memorize the theme verse. You will be surprised how much progress your child can make spending just a few minutes on this each day!

We also encourage you to read the passage and review the goal.

Day Three: Grow Your Heart



We want your family to put God's truth in your hearts! This day is focused on **diving deeper** into the passage of Scripture. Through a series of questions your family will learn what it teaches you about God and yourselves. This gets the truth your child has learned in their head worked down to their heart. We will provide a couple big picture answers, but there will be so many more you can explore with your child.

We also encourage you to read the passage and review the goal.

Day Four: Show His World



We want your family to show God through **taking action** in your lives! Our prayer is that this day of every week is where the teachings of Jesus collide with your child's heart and encourages them to live like Jesus. We don't want to only know His Word and believe His Word, we want to do His Word. Here's where the transformation happens. We want this to be an application that is personal to your child; however, we will provide 1-2 ideas each week for you. Parents, we encourage you to "live it out" and join in too!

We also encourage you to read the passage and review the goal.

Day Five: Blow My Mind



We want your children to teach what they know, believe, and have done. This day allows your child to be the teacher and you to be the student. This will **reinforce** the truths they've learned. Each week, remind your child to include the goal of that week's passage, what it teaches us about Jesus and others, and what the Scripture memory is for the week. Lean into their creative giftings for this. Your child may want to do an activity, use a whiteboard, make a craft, etc. to teach you. Remember to be all-in with their ideas! If you have trouble getting creative, no worries! We provide one creative idea for your child on each of these days.



WEEK ONE

#Blessed

Day One

Matthew 5:1–12

Overview

What comes to mind when you think of people who are blessed?

Likely they have success, comfort, health, status, money, nice homes, nice cars, great vacations, and overall an easy life (These are great!). The type of people we probably would not think of as being blessed are the powerless, the mourning, the outcast, the humble, the ones that just can't get it right, and those experiencing pain.

What's interesting is that when Jesus came onto the scene, He actually began to bring His kingdom through those people. He began this sermon with what we would consider to be not your normal blessing. He said there is a blessing for the powerless, the mourning, the humble, those who fail, the merciful, the pure, the peacemaker, and the persecuted.

He invited others into a new way to live through the most unlikely people. These people likely never thought they would be good enough to be part of the kingdom of God, but through Jesus the kingdom of God came to them. They were blessed, promised blessing, and experiencing blessing because they had Jesus. JESUS IS THE BLESSING, and He is for all people from all backgrounds, all circumstances, and all situations. And He is inviting your family into this blessing too!

The Goal

Believe that Jesus is the blessing, both on the mountaintops and in the valleys.



The Game

Play a series of games where even when your child loses, they win. (Whether they win or lose, give them a piece of candy.)

- High-card: Use a deck of cards, and split the cards evenly between all family members. Do not look at your cards. One family member counts to 3, and on 3 each person flips their top card. The high-card wins. If there is a tie, play Rock Paper Scissors to see who wins the hand. Once everyone runs out of cards, whoever has more will be the winner.
- Tic-Tac-Toe: Play best out of 5.
- Rock Paper Scissors: Play best out of 5.
- Play any game you choose with the same reward regardless of if they win or lose.

Unfold the Heart

Lead your family through the following discussion prompts:

- What was your favorite part about the games we played?
- Did you win or lose most of them?
- Even when you lost, what happened? (Still got the reward/still won)
- Name a time when you have felt like you've maybe lost in life, maybe a time when something bad happened to you that you didn't understand. (Let them share and respond how you feel led.)
- Life can feel a bit like a game. When things are going well, we feel like we're winning. When things are not, it feels like we're losing. Does that make sense?
- We are going to read a few verses that talk about this. When Jesus taught His disciples, He was teaching them a new way to live and think. And it was very different from what they were expecting. When He started the conversation with them, He began by telling them several different types of people who were blessed in the midst of feeling like they were losing. When you go through hard times, you may not feel blessed, but there is a blessing in the middle of those hard times. The blessing is that if we are followers of Jesus, He is with us in the good times and the bad times. Jesus is the blessing! And He uses all types of people in all types of circumstances. As we follow Jesus, He will continue to show us a way to live that feels different than what we might be used to.
- Can you explain back to me what the purpose of this activity is? (Even when we lose, we win because JESUS is the blessing!)

Read the passage, and pray together as a family.

Prayer Prompt: "Father, would you help me enjoy the blessings that feel good that you have for me and also find you as the blessing in the hard times in life. Amen."

Day Two



Know His Word

✓ Memorize Matthew 5:11–12a.

You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven.

All Scripture is taken from the Christian Standard Bible version.

● Get Moving!

Read the verse aloud. Grab a ball, and have each person in your family practice reciting/reading the verse when they are holding the ball. Then, pass the ball around having each person pick up where the other left off. Make it fun! Keep going until everyone has a good grasp on reciting the verse. Say it aloud together.

Day Three



Grow Your Heart

● Read the passage: Matthew 5:1-12.

● Ask these questions:

- Do all of the people Jesus describes seem blessed from your view?
- If Jesus said these people were blessed, does that mean they were? (Yes)
- What makes them blessed? (They can have Jesus.)
- Where is our true reward? (Jesus/God and forever with them)
- What does this passage teach you about Jesus? (He's inviting everyone, everywhere to experience life with Him. He is the blessing!)
- What does this passage teach you about yourself and others? (I can find Him in the good times and even in the bad times.)
- What do you feel like God wants to say to you right now?

Day Four



Show the World

● Discuss: How do you live this out?

- Reflect on when you were going through a hard time, or maybe you are going through a hard time right now. Maybe you feel less-than compared to others. How can the truth of this help you this week when you feel this way?
- Do you know anyone that is going through a hard time who you could encourage by reminding them of these truths? Send a text, make them a card, send them a video, etc. encouraging them that Jesus loves them and is with them!

Day Five



Blow My Mind!

● Create!

Have your child create an imaginary story that communicates the purpose of the passage this week. Then, have them tell you how that relates to what they learned this week.

WEEK TWO

Can You See What I See?

Day One

Matthew 5:14-16

Overview

You are the light!

You, who were once darkness, do not just possess the light, but because of Jesus you are the light. So when people see you, they see a little bit of Jesus. Imagine for a moment you have lost all electricity in your home. No one can see. It's been this way for several days now. I remember this happening when I was a kid, and I bet we've all been there at some point. What is your initial reaction when everything goes dark? Find a light. You would not go find the flashlight and then stuff it under your couch cushion. No way! You would put it on a table or shelf so that everyone around you may see. As followers of Jesus we are the light of the world.

Those without Jesus are in the dark and they do not have the ability to see clearly. But we do. We have this beautiful light for others that Jesus is calling His disciples to share with the world so they can SEE WHAT WE SEE. And He does it by telling us to let that light shine before others, so they may see our good works and give glory to God. The very thing that makes a light beautiful is that it shines on something so you can see. Let's have our children join us as we shine the light of God - His peace, His presence, and His purpose - with the world, so that others may see God and God may receive glory. Don't shine your light so that you will be remembered, but so that Jesus will never be forgotten.

The Goal

Let the love of Jesus be on display
through you so that God may be glorified.



The Game

Play a hidden object game in the dark:

- Find the darkest room/closet in your house. Lights will be off for the majority of this game! It may be best to do this activity at night for darker rooms!
- Have your child hide an item in the room (we used a Bible). The lights can be on during the hiding portion.
- You or another one of your children will go into the room with all of the lights off and doors closed and try to find the hidden object.
- If you or another child is having trouble finding the object, you can invite the child that hid the object to come in and give the person looking for it a flashlight.
- The child that hid the item and the child/person looking for the object will play “hot and cold” to find where the item is located.
- Keep taking turns hiding and finding the object for as long as you’d like.

Unfold the Heart

Lead your family through the following discussion prompts:

- When you were looking for the item in the dark how did you feel? (Frustrated. I could not find anything)
- How different was it when the flashlight was turned on? (Easy, fun)
- Would the game be fun if it were pitch black and you couldn’t see at all? Were you glad we took turns shining the light so that it made it easier to find what you were looking for?
- The only way to see in the dark is with a light. In the same way, the world is dark and when we follow Jesus He calls us to be “light” to the world. We’ve been talking about and will keep talking about this new way to live that Jesus calls us to. We are to let Jesus be displayed through our lives to others around us. We do not turn the light off or hide our light under a basket. We let it shine before others, so they may see our good deeds and glorify God. We are the light of the world!
- What do you think it means to let your light shine before others so they may see your good works and glorify God? (Being like Jesus - compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love)
- What do you think are some challenges to letting your light shine before others? (Help guide them through any fears or insecurities they may have)
- When we love people like Jesus loves us, how do you think that could change others’ view of God? (They will want to know Him more!)

Read the passage, and pray together as a family.

Prayer Prompt: “Father, would you help me to let my light shine before others so they may see my good works and glorify You. Amen.”

Day Two



Know His Word

✓ Memorize Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

● Add Movement

Read the verse aloud. Then begin to incorporate hand motions. Say it aloud together.

Day Three



Grow Your Heart

● Read the passage: Matthew 5:14–16.

● Ask these questions:

- What does Jesus say His followers are to the world?
- What do you do when it is dark and you have a light? (Show the way)
- If you had a light in the darkness and no one could see around you, would you keep the light off? (No way!) Why not?
- What does Jesus call His followers to do with their light? (Let it shine)
- What do you think it means to let your light shine? (Show people the love of Jesus by what you say and do.)
- What does this passage teach you about Jesus? (He is the “light of the world,” and now He is empowering His followers to be like Him to the world. He wants us, His followers, to understand that we are the means to which people will know Jesus and give glory to God.)

- What does this passage teach you about yourself and others? (Following Jesus means doing things like Jesus did so that others may give glory to God.)
- What do you feel like God wants to say to you right now?

Day Four



Show the World

- **Discuss: How do you live this out?**
 - Reflect on and discuss a time this past week that you've let your light shine. Maybe it was something you said or did.
 - Brainstorm who you may be able to help in your community. This may be a great opportunity to ask your local church. Let your child take the lead here.

Day Five



Blow My Mind!

- **Explore!**

Have your child teach you in a dark room holding a flashlight.

WEEK THREE

The B-I-B-L-E

Day One

Matthew 5:17–19

Overview God's Word is a treasure

A. W. Tozer once wrote, “The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts.” Isn’t this what we all desire?

This is what Jesus invites us into with this new way to live. He lets us peek behind the curtain and see how He views the Bible and how our view and practice of the Bible shapes everything. The Bible is precious, important, beautiful, and so much more. To follow the Word of God is essential to someone who follows Jesus.

Jesus saw Scripture as wisdom. The Bible doesn’t always answer every question we have, but it guides us in wisdom and God’s character so we can choose and act how it would please Him. Our relationship with God is reflective of our relationship with the Bible. May our children know how beautiful and important the B-I-B-L-E is to those who follow Jesus!

The Goal

Know and understand that your relationship with God is reflective of your relationship with the Bible.



The Game

Choose whichever activity below suits your supplies best!

As you move towards doing the version with the instructions, be sure to point out that it's important to not leave out ANYTHING! Through this process they will learn how important it is to follow every instruction.

- Option 1: Complete a puzzle (without the finished picture to reference), build Legos (without the instructions), solve a Rubik's Cube (without looking up the way to do this). Then, use instructions for the task you chose.
- Option 2: Do a YouTube "Art For Kids Hub" drawing. First, everyone in the family should try to draw the finished picture without going through the steps on the video. Then, with a fresh start, watch the video, and go step-by-step.

Unfold the Heart

Lead your family through the following discussion prompts:

- How successful were you doing _____ on your own, without instructions? (Not a chance!)
- Without any direction, how difficult would it have been for you to complete it?
- When were you able to do _____ the correct way? (When you looked at the instructions)
- How important was it to have a guide, or instructions, so that you could do it best? (Couldn't do it without them)
- The instructions helped show you how to complete the task best. The creator of it knows this better than any of us. We could work on it for hours on end and not be able to figure out how to do it best. But the one who created it has a guide or instructions and knows the right way for us to make it what we truly want. Here's why I'm telling you this: just like you had to have the guide and instruction to make _____ best, Jesus tells us in His Word, the Bible, that the Bible is essential to show us how to encounter God and live best. With the Bible, we are able to know God on an intimate level and enjoy a relationship with Him. The more we spend time with God in His Word, the closer we will be to God. The greater our view and practice of the Bible is, the greater our view of God will become.
- How would you describe the Bible?
- How important is the Bible to you?

Read the passage, and pray together as a family.

Prayer Prompt: "Father, would you help me to delight in Your Word and obey all of it. Amen"

Day Two



Know His Word



Memorize Matthew 5:17

Don't think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.



Take Turns

Read the verse aloud. Pass the Bible around and have each person say the verse while holding the bible. Say it aloud together.

Day Three



Grow Your Heart



Read the passage: Matthew 5:17-19.



Ask these questions:

- If you wanted to have the best life and I could help you do that, would you listen to me? (Of course)
- Jesus is telling them how to best enjoy life here on earth. And how obeying the Bible is important to us enjoying life.
- What does Jesus say He came to do here? (Fulfill the law)
- How important does Jesus say the law is? (v.18 It will stand true forever)
- How important does Jesus say it is that we obey His commands?
- What does this passage teach you about Jesus? (He came to fulfill the law and has a high view of obeying the Bible.)
- What does this passage teach you about yourself and others? (My relationship with God is reflective of my relationship with the Bible.)
- What do you feel like God wants to say to you right now?

Day Four



Show the World

● Discuss: How do you live this out?

- Let your child pick out another verse they would like to memorize this week. You can help with this. Give them a few options, or help them think through a verse that may be helpful for them to know right now. Hiding God's Word in our hearts is one way to help grow our love for His Word.

If you need an idea, here is a great one to memorize: "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

- Ask your child: What is a command in God's Word that is difficult for you to obey? Help them work through this.

Day Five



Blow My Mind!

● Create!

Have your child create a color sheet outline for you that communicates the idea of this week's lesson (example: Bible or picture of others reading a Bible).

You will color the picture while they teach the lesson!

WEEK FOUR

Peace In + Peace Out

Day One

Matthew 5:21–26

Overview

God went to the greatest lengths to reconcile us to Him...

...so we should go to the greatest lengths to reconcile with others. All of us would agree that murder is serious. It seems like one of the greatest betrayals and catastrophes of humankind. But what if murder is deeper than a physical act and rather a state of the heart? Jesus considers that lingering grudge, that state of bitterness towards someone, as a stumbling block to the peace we should enjoy in following Him.

He is so serious about how much this can impact the soul that He tells His followers if they are offering a gift at the altar and remember someone has something against them, they should leave the gift, go and reconcile with that person, then come back and offer that gift. He wants us to have a right relationship with others before we offer anything to Him. What a radical way of thinking.

Jesus had a high value on His followers having right relationships with those around them. Our children will live in peace with God, others, and themselves if they usher in this new way of peace in their relationships! Following Jesus in this way may be challenging at times but it will bring PEACE OUT AND PEACE IN!

The Goal

Know and understand that your relationship with God is reflective of your relationship with others.



The Game

Use a deck of cards or a card game that emphasizes matching sets/pictures.

(Examples: matching game, Uno, Spot It, Go Fish, Old Maid)

- Play the card game(s), and discuss with your child that when the cards go together, it is good for you and you win. When they don't go together, things don't go as well for you in the game.

Unfold the Heart

Lead your family through the following discussion prompts:

- How did it feel when you were getting lots of matches in the game?
- How did it feel when you didn't get cards that matched?
- How were you able to move forward in the game? (When you made a match)
- What happened if you did not find or have the right card? (Your turn was over)
- When you were able to get matches, the game was working together to help you keep going, and you enjoyed how that felt. When you weren't getting matches, it was frustrating, and the game likely wasn't as enjoyable because you could not keep going. In a similar way, in life when we have right relationships with others, we can be at peace with one another, and things feel right and good. And when our relationships aren't right and we have unresolved conflict (frustration, bitterness, or anger), we don't have that same peace within us. Can you describe a time when you've felt this way?
- Jesus knows our relationships with others are important. Part of following Him means we keep right relationships with others. He wants us to live at peace with others and reconcile (make things right) when our relationships with others aren't at peace. When we have peace with others outwardly, we feel at peace/good on the inside. Does that make sense?
- Sometimes things can seem ok on the outside but on the inside we have bitterness or anger towards others because of something they have done toward us. People can also have similar feelings toward us if we have wronged them. Jesus encourages us to work things out with them and seek to live at peace with those around us. Our relationship with God is reflective of our relationship with others.

Read the passage, and pray together as a family.

We recommend you modify the language according to the age and stage of your child.

Prayer Prompt: "Father, help me to have peace in my relationships with others and peace with You. Amen."

Day Two



Know His Word

✓ Memorize Matthew 5:23-24

So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

● Get Artsy

Read the verse aloud. Read the verse in short increments. Then, have your child draw a picture to help them remember the verse. Say it aloud together.

(This verse is a bit longer, but you've got this! Keep the picture around for reference each day of the week.)

Day Three



Grow Your Heart

● Read the passage: Matthew 5:21-26

● Ask these questions:

- How serious is Jesus about our relationships with others?
- He cares about how we act outwardly toward others, but what else does He care about? (Our hearts toward them)
- What does Jesus want us to experience in our relationships with others? (Peace)
- How does our Scripture this week change your view of your relationships, and how important they are to Jesus?
- What does this passage teach you about Jesus? (He wants me to have peace outwardly and in my heart with those around me. He can help me with this. If you find it hard to have this peace with certain people, take some time to reflect on the gospel. We have sinned and messed up the

peace between ourselves and God/Jesus. Jesus died for your sins even when you didn't deserve it so that you can now be at peace with Him and in a right relationship with Him. If He did that for you, He can help you have peace with others.)

- What does this passage teach you about yourself and others? (My relationship with God is reflective of my relationship with others.)
- What do you feel like God wants to say to you right now?

Day Four



Show the World

● Discuss: How do you live this out?

- This may be a practice for all of us! Each member of the family should think of someone that has done something wrong toward them or someone they have done something wrong toward. Or maybe it's just that person that you often find yourself at odds with in your spirit. We invite you to work through this as you help your child work through who this may be—it could be something that happened days ago, months ago, or even years ago—but they may still have a bit of frustration in their heart toward this person. This may be a friend, a sibling, a teacher, a parent, etc. (If your child does not have a situation that comes to mind, invite them into your journey with a current situation or past situation where you've reconciled a relationship that was strained. Let them ask questions, and discuss how this ties into what Jesus is teaching.)
- Once each family member has identified the name of that person, brainstorm some ways that you can uniquely and intentionally encourage your child to reconcile (or make peace) with them. It may be a bit heavy, but you can have fun and get creative with this!

Day Five



Blow My Mind!

● Lead!

Have your child lead YOU in a prayer at the beginning and end of their lesson.

You Have My Word

Day One

Matthew 5:33–37

Overview

Have you ever committed to something and didn't do it?

We all have. But do you catch yourself repeatedly making statements, expectations, exaggerations, or promises that you have trouble fulfilling? Maybe you find yourself having to make promises in order to gain other people's trust. You wind up using more words to manipulate a situation to get a desired outcome. And you may even do this without knowing it. This isn't new.

Jesus wanted to address a similar heart issue of people that would swear, or promise, by God or the things of God in order to get what they want. They had built their life and character in such a way that others were on the fence as to whether or not they meant what they said or would do what they said.

For followers of Jesus, He calls us to a character of integrity in which we say what we mean and do what we say. When we say it, others know they **HAVE OUR WORD** and that we will follow through. Let's invite our kids into the beauty of character built on integrity, for that is what Jesus is after.

The Goal



Say what you mean, and do what you say.

The Game

Have each family member write down a list of 3 things they commit to do for one another.

If you have multiple children, they can do these for each other, mom or dad, or a small task for each person. These can be acts of service, chores, making a card, writing a note, etc. Here is an example list from our crew:

- Clean their room or their sibling's room
- Foot spa: wash each others feet

- Make a card or note listing things they love about the person
- Help with laundry
- Read a book to a younger sibling
- Make a quick dessert
- Paint her nails

This next part may sound crazy, but stay with us. Once you've created the list, say "go," and have everyone begin doing their tasks. Allot around 25 minutes for this. During the time frame, everyone will complete their tasks EXCEPT the parents. If your children notice you're not doing what you said, you can play into the activity and say "I know...I'm going to get to it."

Once time is up, come back together, and show each other what you completed. Parents, your children may feel sad or upset that you did not complete the task (this sets up the questions and importance of this teaching). And then proceed with the "Unfold the Heart" questions. (Be sure to let them know that you will complete it, and then do it right after the questions.)

Unfold the Heart

Lead your family through the following discussion prompts:

- (Referring to their frustration that you did not complete the tasks): Hey, stick with us because we will do everything we said we would. For the purpose of our lesson, we wanted you to experience what it feels like when someone tells you something and then does not do what they said. How did it make you feel when we called time and you realized we didn't do anything we committed to?
- Why do you think it is important to say what you mean and do what you say?
- How do you think it affects others when we don't say what we mean and do what we say? (This may be a good time to also explain how people can use their words to manipulate others into getting what they want. This may look like an "I promise" statement because of previously not following through with a commitment.)
- Do you have an experience where you have done this to someone? How do you think it made them feel?
- Has someone ever done this to you? How did it make you feel?
- As followers of Jesus, we should be people who say what we mean and do what we say. Jesus doesn't want us to make promises we can't fulfill or set expectations that we will not follow through with. It can be hard, but Jesus can help us to keep our word. It is important to Him, so it should be important to us. As followers of Jesus we are representatives of Him, and when others see us, they should see Him. So remember, we always want to say what we mean and do what we say.
- (Parents, remember to now go back and do what you said you would!)

Read the passage, and pray together as a family.

Prayer Prompt: "Father, help me to always do what I say I will do. Amen."

Day Two



Know His Word



Memorize Matthew 5:37

But let your 'yes' mean 'yes,' and your 'no' mean 'no.' Anything more than this is from the evil one.



Thumbs Up & Down

Read the verse aloud. Every time you say "yes" give two thumbs up, and every time it says "no" give two thumbs down.

Day Three



Grow Your Heart



Read the passage: Matthew 5:33–37.



Ask these questions:

- What have you learned so far this week?
- Why is it important to God that we keep our word (do what we say we will do)?
- Why should it be important to you? (It shows Jesus to those around us when we keep our word.)
- What does this passage teach you about Jesus? (He always does what He says, and He calls us to do the same.)
- What does this passage teach you about yourself and others? (I should say what I mean and do what I say.)
- What do you feel like God wants to say to you right now?

Day Four



Show the World

● Discuss: How do you live this out?

- Make a list of things that you have committed to do. (Examples: sports teams, helping around the house, completing extra credit assignments, doing something for a friend, etc.) Do them, and do them well.
- Is there anything that you have committed to that you have not done in the past? Seek forgiveness, and follow through or make it right. This may be as practical as calling someone to tell them, “I am sorry for not doing what I said I would. Will you forgive me?” Then do what you said you would.

Day Five



Blow My Mind!

● Two Thumbs Up

Give two thumbs up the entire time your child teaches you the lesson.

WEEK SIX

Going the Extra Mile

Day One

Matthew 5:38–42

Overview What only love can do

Martin Luther King Jr once said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” We’ve all heard the saying “go the extra mile.” But this saying we casually, and at times jokingly, use is different in Jesus’s intent than when we might use it.

Picture your worst enemy. In some way they’ve hurt you or someone around you physically or emotionally. Maybe they’ve abandoned you. Maybe they’ve taken all that you’ve ever worked for. Maybe they have ruined the trajectory of your life. What if they come back to you and ask you for a meaningful favor that would require a lot from you? The natural response is likely anger and a big “NO” to whatever they might ask of you. What Jesus is framing for these first followers of His way, and to us today, is that the way of anger and violence is not the way of Jesus. Rather, Jesus, having ultimately embraced the humble position, fought violence by turning the cheek, giving more, and **going the extra mile**—even for His enemies (Romans 5:10). What if our children grew up displaying this new way to live to their peers and the world around them? Wow, that might change the world!

The Goal

Display the radical love of Jesus, even when someone may not deserve it in your eyes.



The Game “Yes-day” for 30 minutes!

Let your child be the boss and dictate the next 30 minutes of your evening. Whatever they say goes! The key is that no matter what they ask of you, you have to not only do it, but go above and beyond whatever they ask. Go all-in! If they want to go get ice cream, get them double. If they want to play a game, do it, and find a way to make it even better.

One rule: no screen time

Unfold the Heart Lead your family through the following discussion prompts:

- How fun was our “yes-day”? What was your favorite part?
- Were you surprised when I let you do whatever you wanted?
- How much more surprised were you when we did even more?
- That was kind of wild for me to let you do whatever you wanted, right? And I bet you thought it was even more crazy that I even made it better than you asked, huh?
- Did you do anything in particular to deserve that?
- Now let me change the situation a bit. Imagine someone hurts you, talks bad about you, embarrasses you, makes fun of you, or does something else mean towards you. And they don’t just do this once, but they do this over and over again. Can you imagine that? How would it make you feel?
- Now think about that same person that has hurt you time and time again. What if they needed you to do something to help them? How would that make you feel? How would you respond?
- As Jesus taught His disciples this way to follow Him and live like Him to the world around us, He taught them to not return evil for evil, to turn the other cheek, to give more than is asked of them, to go the extra mile. And He taught them to do this not for their best friend or their family member or someone they respect, but to do this for even their enemy. It sounds wild but Jesus calls His followers to love even when they are not being loved and to live in a way that they give to others even when others may not deserve it. This type of love brings glory to God and is a way to live that could transform the world around you.
- Do you have any situations in your life or relationships where you feel like you need to go the extra mile for someone even though they aren’t kind to you?
- **Read the verses.** How do these verses and this activity we did change your view of your relationships and how important they are to Jesus?

Read the passage, and pray together as a family.

Prayer Prompt: “Father, help me be like Jesus and do to others what You have done for me. Amen.”

Day Two



Know His Word

✓ Memorize Matthew 5:41-42

And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to the one who asks you, and don't turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

● Act It Out

Read the verse aloud. Act it out as you say it. Say it aloud together.

Day Three



Grow Your Heart

● Read the passage: Matthew 5:14-16.

● Ask these questions:

- What have you learned so far this week?
- What does it mean to show radical love to those around us?
- Why is it important to God that we display radical love to those around us?
- Why should it be important to you?
- What does this passage teach you about Jesus? (He always goes the extra mile for us.)
- What does this passage teach you about yourself and others? (I should go the extra mile to serve others around me.)
- What do you feel like God wants to say to you right now?

Day Four



Show the World

● Discuss: How do you live this out?

- What are some ways you can show radical love to those around you this week? Can you think of someone you can love extra hard this week or go out of your way to do something for them? (Remember: loving them even if they don't deserve it)
- Make it a point to pray for someone who is hard for you to love. If you can't think of anyone, pray for a friend! Ask God to help you think of ways you can show them radical love this week.
- Find a passage of Scripture where you see Jesus displaying radical love, like Zacchaeus: Luke 19:1-10, Woman at the Well: John 4:1-42, Crucifixion: John 19, or pick one you love. Jesus is the definition of radical love! Everywhere He is, there is radical love in Scripture. We are living examples of His radical love! Take some time to read through some of these with your child and explain how Jesus doesn't just ask us to live out radical love, He did it too!

Day Five



Blow My Mind!

● Class is in session!

You take notes while your child teaches you, and share your notes at the end.

WEEK SEVEN

Radical Love

Day One

Matthew 5:43–48

Overview Jesus's no-limits love

If you thought week six was radical, Jesus steps it up another level by saying there's absolutely no limits to His love and how we should display that love to others.

His heart in this passage is that our love is not contingent on how others love us or treat us, but instead how we have been treated in Christ. It gets personal. It's easy to love people that think like us, look like us, and live like us. It's hard to love our enemies—those who don't think like us, look like us, and live like us.

In our world, opposites don't attract; they create more barriers between one another. But what if there is a way to live where we love without boundaries. An unconditional love. The love of Jesus was and is so special because it had no conditions. Paul tells us in Romans that Jesus loved us even when we were His enemies. He loved us even at our worst, even in our sin, even when we were against Him. And He did so because His love was based on the core of who they were, not whether they looked like Him, thought like Him, or lived like Him. Because His love was unconditional, so should ours be. This way to live is so radical to us, but it was the most natural thing to Jesus.

The Goal

Know the love of Jesus has no limits, and neither should our love.



The Game Try riddles & tongue twisters!

- Sit down with your child, and look up some riddles. You can have these prepared beforehand or just look them up as you go. Go through the riddles asking your child the questions. If they can read, have them ask you some as well.
- After you have done the riddles for a while, look up tongue twisters to try to say them with your kids. If you have toddlers, invite them in on this to add to the fun!

Unfold the Heart Lead your family through the following discussion prompts:

- Did the riddles make sense at first when you were trying to think of the answers?
- Was it hard to say a lot of those tongue twisters?
- Jesus calls us to things that are hard and sometimes don't make sense. One example is that Jesus teaches us that we should love all people, even our enemies.
- Is it hard for you to love some people? (Take conversation time, and be sure to show grace and understanding here.)
- To live the way of Jesus, He calls us to love those who are even opposite of us—those who are unkind to us, don't love us, don't look like us, etc. As He calls us to be more like Him, He calls us to love even our enemies and pray for those who are mean to us.
- Pray with your child and ask Jesus to help them show that person love and to help their heart toward that person.
- As followers of Jesus He calls us to live like Him and love like Him because He has shown us what this radical love looks like. We love radically because He radically loved/loves us (1 John 4:19).

Read the passage, and pray together as a family.

Prayer Prompt: "Father, help me to love everyone. Help my heart towards those who it is hard for me to love. Amen"

Day Two



Know His Word

✓ Memorize Matthew 5:43-45a

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

● Hugs All Around

Read the verse aloud. Take turns repeating it to other members of the family while hugging them. Say it aloud together while giving a big family hug.

Day Three



Grow Your Heart

● Read the passage: Matthew 5:43-48.

● Ask these questions:

- What have you learned so far this week?
- What is your natural response to people who are unkind to you?
- How can you show love to someone when they are unkind to you?
- Jesus was showing the people a new way to live. It is hard to understand and actually live out loving our enemies. Through the help of Jesus and recognizing His love toward us even in our sin, He can help us love others with no limits.
- Verses 45b-48 show us that God's love is for everyone. We are called to love all people just as Jesus did. You and I are sinners and Jesus loves us. We should show that to others. We can be like Jesus to those around us by loving them despite what the world says about them.
- What does this passage teach you about Jesus? (He loves me no matter what.)
- What does this passage teach you about yourself and others? (I should love everyone no matter what because of Jesus's radical love for me.)
- What do you feel like God wants to say to you right now?

Day Four



Show the World

● Discuss: How do you live this out?

- Before bed each night this week pray for someone who is hard for you to love or who others would consider different. Pray that Jesus would help you with ways you can show love to that person, and pray for them and that they would know Jesus and have a relationship with Him.
- Parents, it would be great for you to share a practical experience of how you have displayed radical love.

Day Five



Blow My Mind!

● Sing Out!

Incorporate singing into the lesson.

WEEK EIGHT

Audience of One

Day One

Matthew 6:1-18

Overview God is enough

Thomas à Kempis once said, “Where can a man be found that desires to serve God for nothing?” There is a way to do the things of God for the approval of others—where we want the recognition, we want people to know we are helping, serving, giving, etc. So much of our environment praises those things that are done in public. It naturally creates a space in our heart that wants the praise from others as well.

However, there is a way to do the things of God for the approval of God—many times these are things done in secret that no one knows about. The goal is that we become like Jesus and live like Him without even realizing it and without the underlying desire for others to know or notice us. In so doing, deep in our hearts the **audience of One** is enough for us. This is what we want to shape our children’s hearts into.

If it’s the applause of people you seek, it’s the applause of men you will find, and it will leave you empty. If it’s the applause of God you seek, it’s the applause of God you will find, and it will leave you filled. Let’s live in such a way that people will praise God, not us.

The Goal

Live with an audience of One.



The Game

Karaoke Time!

- Have each person in your family take turns picking their favorite song and singing karaoke in front of the rest of the family!
- Keep going for as many rounds as you'd like. (We used YouTube and were able to find pretty much all of the songs we wanted in the karaoke version.) Clap and cheer for each other!

Unfold the Heart

Lead your family through the following discussion prompts:

- Did you have fun singing karaoke?
- You did a great job! I loved getting to watch you sing and cheer for you!
- Most of the things we do on a daily basis are in front of others, right? But others don't always see everything that we do. Do you know who does? God!
- Do you like doing things that are considered good deeds?
- Sometimes our good deeds are done in front of others, but sometimes the good deeds we do never get recognition.
- God teaches us in today's Scripture that we should not do what we are called to do by God for the approval of others or so that others will notice us. (Our passage addresses giving, prayer, and fasting and not doing those things in front of others in order to be seen by them and approved by them.)
- We should only be concerned with God seeing the things we do. It's really hard because a lot of times we want recognition for the things we do. But God tells us that He sees those things and our heart attitude should be to do those things for Him and not others. He is our audience of One!
- Doing good things for the right reasons is good! We just need the right heart along with it.
- Can you explain that to me or give me some examples of how that might look in your life?

Read the passage, and pray together as a family.

Prayer Prompt: "Father, help my heart to desire to do good things for Your glory and not my own. Amen."

Day Two



Know His Word

✓ Memorize Matthew 6:1

Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father in heaven.

● Hiding Spot

Read the verse aloud. Draw a picture of a treasure chest, and draw a heart around it. Explain again that the things we see as our treasure are the things our hearts will desire. Draw a cross and the words God and Jesus in the heart to show where our treasure should be. Say it aloud together.

Day Three



Grow Your Heart

● Read the passage: Matthew 6:19–21.

● Ask these questions:

- What does treasure mean to you?
- What do you think it means to store up your treasures on earth? (Where you spend your time and money and attention.) What happens if we do this? (It will all go away. None of it is forever.)
- Where does Jesus say we should store up our treasures? (Heaven.) Why? (Because it will last forever and nothing will destroy it.)
- What does He say reveals where your heart is? (Where your treasure is)
- Jesus says your heart is a reflection of where you store up your treasure. Where do you feel like our family is storing up our treasure?
- What does this passage teach you about Jesus? (He wants us to experience a life that counts forever. He knows that is accomplished by building His kingdom.)
- What does this passage teach you about yourself and others? (When I build His kingdom with my time, money, and attention, I build forever treasure. I will find joy in building His kingdom.)
- What do you feel like God wants to say to you right now?

Day Four



Show the World

● Discuss: How do you live this out?

- Huddle up as a family. List 3 ways you can store up treasure in Heaven. Be specific.
- What is something you can immediately give your time, money, or attention to that will have an impact on eternity?
- What is something that you see in the future that you can give your time, money, or attention to that will impact eternity?
- What is something that you can consistently do that your family can give your time, money, or attention to?

Day Five



Blow My Mind!

● Game on!

Have them create their own activity/game to aid in teaching you this week's lesson.

WEEK NINE

Forever Treasure

Day One

Matthew 6:19–21

Overview Storing up for forever

Jim Elliot once said, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”

Everything around us is luring us to do the opposite of this quote. We hear messages that encourage us to live for the here and now. The world tells us that the goal is to make money, build your American dream, be comfortable, and rise to the top. The problem with this mindset is it’s all about us and this life. But the great news is that Jesus tells a different story! He encourages us to use what He’s given us to build up a forever treasure.

The Goal



Store up treasure in heaven.





The Game

Experiment with fire!

- Grab several items from your home that you are fine with burning in a fire (Examples: construction paper, box, envelope, paper towel, leaves, sticks etc.).
- Next, grab something that will not burn (Examples: rock, brick, etc.)
- Show the materials to your child and ask, “Can you make these disappear?” (Do not let them know you will be making a fire! You are setting things up for the questions later.)
- Have your child help you build a fire. If you don’t have access to making a fire, use a lighter to burn things on a small scale. YOU as the parent do the burning, and let your child pick what to burn. Once you have a fire going, with each item ask, “Do you think this will burn or last?” Save the rock for last!
- Have fun talking about how crazy it is that things you can touch, feel, and see can be gone in just a few moments.

Unfold the Heart

Lead your family through the following discussion prompts:

- Were you surprised that something you could feel, touch, and see could go away so quickly?
- What amazed you about the rock compared to everything else we put in the fire?
- Did you notice how so many things you thought would last a long time burned in the fire? Well, there are many things we think of as treasures in life that people try to get but never last! Did you notice how the rock lasted in the fire? That’s what we want to do in life! The treasures we build in heaven will last forever. Don’t store up things on earth that will pass away. Store up eternal things that never will pass away. Use your time, money, and energy to invest into God’s kingdom. Store up forever treasure.
- What are some things that people live for that will not last forever?
- What are some things that we should live for that last forever?

Read the passage, and pray together as a family.

Prayer Prompt: “Father, help me to build Your Kingdom. Amen”

Day Two



Know His Word

- ✓ Memorize Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Hiding Spot

Read the verse aloud. Draw a picture of a treasure chest, and draw a heart around it. Explain again that the things we see as our treasure are the things our hearts will desire. Draw a cross and the words God and Jesus in the heart to show where our treasure should be. Say it aloud together.

Day Three



Grow Your Heart

- Read the passage: Matthew 6:19–21.

- Ask these questions:

- What does treasure mean to you?
- What do you think it means to store up your treasures on earth? (Where you spend your time and money and attention.) What happens if we do this? (It will all go away. None of it is forever.)
- Where does Jesus say we should store up our treasures? (Heaven.) Why? (Because it will last forever and nothing will destroy it.)
- What does He say reveals where your heart is? (Where your treasure is)
- Jesus says your heart is a reflection of where you store up your treasure. Where do you feel like our family is storing up our treasure?
- What does this passage teach you about Jesus? (He wants us to experience a life that counts forever. He knows that is accomplished by building His kingdom.)

- What does this passage teach you about yourself and others? (When I build His kingdom with my time, money, and attention, I build forever treasure. I will find joy in building His kingdom.)
- What do you feel like God wants to say to you right now?

Day Four



Show the World

● Discuss: How do you live this out?

- Huddle up as a family. List 3 ways you can store up treasure in Heaven. Be specific.
- What is something you can **immediately** give your time, money, or attention to that will have an impact on eternity?
- What is something that you see in the **future** that you can give your time, money, or attention to that will impact eternity?
- What is something that you can **consistently** do that your family can give your time, money, or attention to?

Day Five



Blow My Mind!

● Dress the part!

Have them dress up as their favorite teacher or coach while teaching you.

WEEK TEN

What You Seek Is What You Get

Day One

Matthew 6:25–34

Overview Your gaze determines your peace.

You can't just remove worry from your life, you have to replace it. When I got my permit to start driving, I remember being afraid of not being able to keep the vehicle between the lines. I was worried I would hit a curb, mailbox, or even a car. I remember pulling over because I was so focused on not hitting what was right around me. My worry literally made me stop moving. But my mom explained to me that you don't focus on what's right around you, but you keep your focus out in front of you.

Worrying is not as much of a matter of what we have or don't have right around us, it is a matter of what we focus on. Where you focus your gaze and efforts will largely determine your level of peace. When our focus is on worldly things that are all around us, we can become anxious. When our focus is on God, we become peace. We become like what we focus on. **What you seek is what you get.** May our children seek first His kingdom and know He will take care of the other things.

The Goal



Live a life of peace within.





The Game **Indoor or Outdoor Scavenger Hunt!**

Create a scavenger hunt of your choice, modified as needed based on location and setting. We went to a local state park on a short hike, and here's what we were looking for:

- Leaf, animal, insect, moss, acorn, rock, flower, animal sound, water. (Modify as needed based on location and setting)

Unfold the Heart **Lead your family through the following discussion prompts:**

- What was the best part about being outside?
- How did you know what to look for on the scavenger hunt?
- What are some things that may have distracted you from what you were looking for?
- When you focus on what you are supposed to, you feel like you're on track. When you were looking for _____ in the scavenger hunt, that's what you found. If you were not looking for it, you would have never found it. **WHAT YOU SEEK IS WHAT YOU GET.** When Jesus continued to teach His people what it looked like to follow Him, He explained how they could experience this great life and this peace when they stayed focused on what He called them to do. Many of them became distracted with many things in their lives, and it caused them to worry, but He encouraged them to stay focused on what mattered most. He wanted them to seek first the kingdom of God.

Read the passage, and pray together as a family.

Prayer Prompt: "Father, help me to stay focused on You and not get distracted by things in this world. Amen."

Day Two



Know His Word



Memorize Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.



Goofy Glasses

Read the verse aloud. Practice saying the verse aloud while wearing goggles or glasses. Say it aloud together.

Day Three



Grow Your Heart



Read the passage: Matthew 6:25–34.



Ask these questions:

- What do you think it means to worry?
- What does Jesus say to not worry about?
- Why do we not have to worry?
- You can't just remove worry from your life; you have to replace it with something. What does Jesus say we need to do instead of worrying?
- What does this passage teach you about Jesus? (He is our peace.)
- What does this passage teach you about yourself and others? (When I seek Him first, I will find the peace I long for.)
- What do you feel like God wants to say to you right now?

Day Four



Show the World

● **Discuss: How do you live this out?**

- What is something you worry about? Confess it in your family, pray about it, and discuss how you can turn that worry into seeking heaven on earth.

Day Five



Blow My Mind!

● **Get Silly!**

Have your child teach you in a different accent or silly voice.

Something's in My Eye

Day One

Matthew 7:1–6

Overview Storing up for forever

You can be free, but the process will require a lot of time alone with God, allowing Him to do in you what you cannot otherwise do in yourself. Both a splinter in your eye and a beam of wood in your eye would be uncomfortable. However, one of the situations is urgent and needs immediate attention. An eye full of wood cannot see clearly to help someone with an eye that has a speck of wood.

In the same way Jesus calls us to look within our own hearts so that we can purely help those around us. When we notice sin in others, we can quickly judge them in our hearts or say things to them from a place of pride. If we do not deal with the things in our hearts that we need to deal with, we cannot truly help those around us out of a place of humility and love.

Jesus wants us to let Him into our hearts to show us our motives and sin and let His light in on those things so that we can repent and begin working on them with His help. D.L. Moody once said, “There must be an emptying before there can be a filling; and when the heart is turned upside down, and everything is turned out that is contrary to God, then the Spirit will come.”

The Goal

Do not judge. Instead, examine your heart
and let God purify you.



The Game

Puzzle Madness!

Choose a puzzle from your home for each member of your family. The purpose of this game is to complete your puzzle first then help others. Play each round twice and time yourself each time and try to get faster! If you have a large family, split up into 2 teams for each round. The first team to complete all of the puzzles wins!

- Round 1: Start by completing your own puzzle, then help the other members of your family or team complete their puzzle if they have not finished yet.
- Round 2: Start by completing your own puzzle, then help the other members of your family or team complete their puzzle if they have not finished yet. Then, complete an additional puzzle by working together.
- Round 3: Set a timer to go off every 60 seconds of this round. Each person will begin with their own puzzle. Every time the timer goes off, switch to the next person's puzzle. Continue switching with your family or team until all the puzzles are completed.

Unfold the Heart

Lead your family through the following discussion prompts:

- What was your favorite part about this game?
- What did you have to do first each round before helping those around you? (complete your own puzzle)
- Was it easier to help those around you once you had completed your own puzzle? In Round 3, what made it harder to complete the puzzles? (not focusing on my own puzzle first)
- Just like in this activity, you had to complete your puzzle first before helping others, Jesus tells us in this week's passage of the Sermon on the Mount to look inward to our own hearts and check ourselves. If we see things in our family, friends, or those around us that seem not to honor God, before we say something to them about it or judge them in our hearts, we should examine our own hearts to be sure we have dealt with and repented of the sins and motives of our own heart. God wants us to come into those situations humbly and in love. Jesus wants His followers to live in the freedom that comes with a pure heart.

Read the passage, and pray together as a family.

Prayer Prompt: "Father, help me to have a pure heart. Amen"

Day Two



Know His Word

✓ Memorize Matthew 7:5

First take the beam of wood out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother's eye.

● Hiding Spot

Read the verse aloud. Use white paper for this quick and fun activity. Parents, write the verse on the white paper in white crayon. Have your child color over the paper with markers and watch as the Scripture memory shows up! Practice by repeating the verse together each day this week. Hang the paper on the fridge or a place where your child can see it. Just as you can't see the verse until you color it in, in the same way, you can't always see the motives in your heart until you take time to examine it.

Day Three



Grow Your Heart

● Read the passage: Matthew 7:1-6.

● Ask these questions:

- What do you think Jesus meant in verses 1-2? (Be careful not to judge others.)
- What have we learned this week that helps us understand verses 3-4? (It can be easy to point out faults or sins in others without noticing sins and things we need to work on within ourselves.)
- What is a hypocrite? (Someone who does good things with the wrong heart or motives)
- What does Jesus tell us to do in verse 5? (Examine ourselves and take the beam out of our eye before we judge those around us or point out their flaws.)

- How do we live a life of humility? (When we recognize how much Jesus has forgiven us from, it helps us live life more humbly. Then, it helps us realize how much we need Him and how much He loves us even though we don't deserve it. It helps us view others from that lens.)
- What does this passage teach you about Jesus? (His desire is for us to have a pure heart.)
- What does this passage teach you about yourself and others? (Sometimes I can be critical of others. I should look at my own life and ask God to make me pure in my heart.)
- What do you feel like God wants to say to you right now?

Day Four



Show the World

● Discuss: How do you live this out?

- Pray and ask God to help you examine your heart and see if there is any sin you need to repent of. Pray and ask for Him to help you live humbly, for His glory, and to reflect His image to others. Here are a handful of questions to help your child examine their heart. Help them work through these questions and guide them on how Jesus can help them be aligned with His heart.
- What makes you mad?
- What makes you anxious?
- What are you most afraid of?
- What do you feel would make your life better? ("If I could just have ___, my life would be better." This can help them identify idols in their lives.

Day Five



Blow My Mind!

● New Name!

Be your child's student, and have the child make up a different name for you that they call you while they ask questions and teach you.

WEEK TWELVE

How Do You Sum This Up?

Day One

Matthew 7:7–12

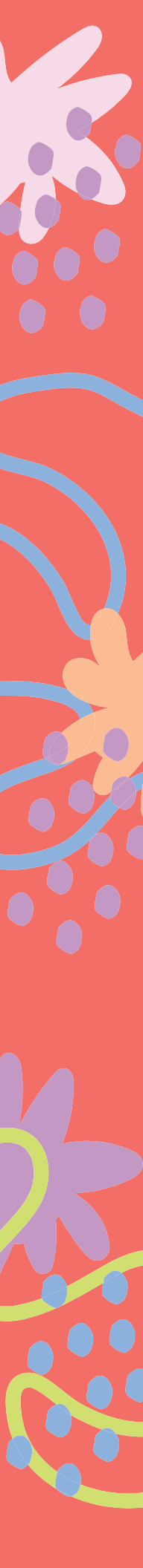
Overview Living New

How would you sum up these teachings of Jesus's invitation to live in a new way? Jesus answered this question as He approached the closing of this astounding sermon. He was teaching His new followers and those who choose to follow Him even now.

God loves you so much that out of an abundance of His love and generosity toward you, you now live with an abundance of love and generosity towards others. You treat everyone the way you've been treated in Christ and want to be treated. In doing this, there is a beautiful and primal harmony of God's grace and love reciprocating from you to others and other's back to you. Isn't this the original design—to live in perfect love with God and love with others? That's what Jesus is calling us to experience.

The Goal

Do for others as you would want others to do for you.



The Game Pick your game or activity!

Each member of the family gets to pick an activity they want to do! Everyone in the family will take part in each other's chosen activity when it is not their turn.

- Examples: blanket fort, art project, baking, building, games, etc.

Unfold the Heart Lead your family through the following discussion prompts:

- What was your favorite activity?
- Did you have fun with each of the activities? What was your favorite part of doing other family members' activities? (having fun together, seeing how happy and loved it made them feel)
- Did you enjoy your family members helping you with your chosen activity? How did it make you feel?
- Do you enjoy doing things that make other people happy and loved? Give an example.
- Jesus tells us in our passage of Scripture this week that we should do to others (everyone) as we would want them to do for us. We do this out of an overflow of the way we have experienced the love of God in our own lives. When we treat others the way we want to be treated and do to others as we would want them to do to us, it creates harmony and an atmosphere of love. Even in this activity, we all had fun treating each other the way we would want to be treated by partaking in each person's chosen activity together. We can practice this in our everyday lives!

Read the passage, and pray together as a family.

Prayer Prompt: "Father, help me to do for others what I would want them to do for me. Amen."

Day Two



Know His Word

✓ Memorize Matthew 7:12

Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

● Golden Rule Poster

Read the verse aloud. Did you know this is what is commonly known as the Golden Rule? Write the verse on a piece of paper or poster board. Use yellow or gold markers/stickers to decorate around the verse. Practice reciting the verse as you decorate. Hang up the paper or poster board somewhere in your house this week where everyone can see it! Say it aloud together.

Day Three



Grow Your Heart

● Read the passage: Matthew 7:7-12.

● Ask these questions:

- Discuss the 3 things we do that God responds to in verses 7-8. How does He respond to these things?
- In verses 9-10 how would you respond to what Jesus is saying? Would you give bad gifts to others if they asked for something from you?
- If God gives us good gifts despite our sin, how should we treat others around us whether they deserve it or not?
- What does this passage teach you about Jesus? (He always looked out for others above Himself.)
- What does this passage teach you about yourself and others? (I honor God and live the way I was created to when I do for others what I would want them to do for me.)
- What do you feel like God wants to say to you right now?

Day Four



Show the World

● Discuss: How do you live this out?

Think of a way that you can do something for someone else this week that you would appreciate if it was done for you. Do not do it with an expectation that someone will do it for you—just do it for them out of love for that person. Examples:

- You hear your parents tell your sister to clean her room. You help her clean it to serve her and love her so that she can finish quicker.
- You are at a birthday party and you ask your friend if they would like for you to get their food or throw away their trash for them.
- You see that your parents are working hard to clean the house so you ask how you can help.

Day Five



Blow My Mind!

● Presentation Style

Have your child write out or draw the main points on a poster board or dry erase board as they teach you.

WEEK THIRTEEN

Your Response Is Everything

Day One

Matthew 7:24–27

Overview Listen and live

Many agree this teaching has impacted the world more than any other words ever spoken in human history. So how did Jesus end this world changing teaching? The final words He leaves His followers with are a dramatic warning and call to not just know what He said but to obey what He has said.

The greatest tragedy is to be convinced by the Spirit of God and the words of Jesus Himself but to never change—to walk through this astounding teaching inviting you to live the fullest life but go back to the same life you were living before. C. S. Lewis wrote, “The more often he feels without acting, the less he will be able ever to act, and, in the long run, the less he will be able to feel.” How you respond to Jesus’s words will determine the trajectory of your life.

The Goal

Accept Jesus’s invitation to live like Him!



The Game

Rock vs. sand demonstration

Gather your blocks, magnet tiles, or whatever supplies you use for building!

- Build an epic structure or tower on a hard floor or surface in your home. After you build it, a storm is coming! Have each person in the family blow on it and hit the ground around it to try to knock it down. Don't touch the actual structure!
- Build another structure/tower on carpet, your couch, ottoman, or another soft or un-sturdy surface in your home. After you build it, a storm is coming! Have each person in the family blow on it and hit the ground around it to try to knock it down. Don't touch the actual structure!

Unfold the Heart

Lead your family through the following discussion prompts:

- Which tower was easiest to build? Why?
- Which structure was the easiest to knock down? Why?
- If you were to build another tower, which of the two foundations would you want to build it on (sturdy or not)? Why?
- No one would willingly choose to build on an un-sturdy foundation. Just like the towers built on the sturdy foundation stayed strong, we should also build our lives on a sturdy foundation. What do you think that means? How do we do that?
- Jesus tells us that those that **hear** and **act** on His words will be like a wise man who builds his house on the rock. The last several weeks we have learned from Jesus how we are to live as His followers. It is good to know these things, but it's even better to **live** them out and **act** on them! If we listen and act or apply His teaching, that is how we build a strong foundation in Jesus. Let's follow Jesus by hearing and acting on His words!

Read the passage, and pray together as a family.

Prayer Prompt: "Father, help me to follow Your way to live. Amen"

Day Two



Know His Word

✓ Memorize Matthew 7:24

Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock

● Silly Sounds

Read the verse aloud. Have each member of the family say the verse in a silly voice. Say it aloud together.

Day Three



Grow Your Heart

● Read the passage: Matthew 7:24–27.

● Ask these questions:

- What does Jesus tell us we should do in verse 24? (Hear and act on God's Word.)
- What does Jesus call those who hear and act on His words? (wise)
- If we build our house on the rock, what happens when the rain and storms come? Why?
- What does Jesus call someone who hears His words but does not act? (foolish)
- What does it mean to build our house on the sand?
- What happens if we build our house on the sand?
- In summary, how do we build our house on the rock or the strong foundation? (Hear **and** act on God's Word.)
- What does this passage teach you about Jesus? (He knows that just knowing His Word will not lead to the life we long for, but we must act on His Word. He wants us to experience life to the fullest by living for Him.)

- What does this passage teach you about yourself and others? (It is wise for me to hear and act on God's Word. I can build my life on a firm foundation when I hear Jesus's words and obey them.)
- What do you feel like God wants to say to you right now?

Day Four



Show the World

● Discuss: How do you live this out?

- The purpose of this day each week is to **act** on what Jesus is telling us to do. Our passage this week shows us how important that is. What is something that you have learned in the past 12 weeks of the Sermon on the Mount that is hardest for you to live out (Examples: loving your enemies, living with an audience of One, etc). Our challenge to you this week is to pray and ask Jesus to help you practice living out the hard things.

Day Five



Blow My Mind!

● Class is in Session!

Have your child give **you** a pop quiz, and let them grade it!

Scripture Memory

CHECKLIST

Color in the  when you've got it!



You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven.

Matthew 5:11-12a



In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



Don't think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

Matthew 5:17



So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:23-24



But let your 'yes' mean 'yes,' and your 'no' mean 'no.' Anything more than this is from the evil one.

Matthew 5:37



And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to the one who asks you, and don't turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Matthew 5:41-42



You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:43-45a



Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father in heaven.

Matthew 6:1



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21



But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.

Matthew 6:33



First take the beam of wood out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother's eye.

Matthew 7:5



Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 7:12



Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24

Study Summary

Jesus begins to preach in Matthew 4:17, and His message is, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Jesus is present, so everything is about to change. He calls His first disciples. He then goes through Galilee teaching, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing the sick. News traveled quickly, and large crowds began to follow Him. As He began to see the large crowds, He went up on the mountain and sat down. Then, His disciples came to Him, and He started to teach them. He began His teaching with an upside-down way to view blessing.

Those around Him were the poor ones, the outcasts, the nobodies in society, and Jesus said they were the blessed ones because heaven had come near to them. He is the blessing. When they have and follow Jesus, whether in the valley or on the mountain, they are blessed. Blessing goes beyond external circumstances; it’s the inward presence and promise of Jesus (**Week 1 - Matthew 5:11-12a**).

After the introductory blessing, Jesus then shapes their identity. He communicates, “You are the light; now live like it.” Because of who we are in Jesus, we should let His love be broadcasted from our lives so that others will see God, not us, and glorify Him (**Week 2 - Matthew 5:16**).

Then Jesus teaches how their relationship with God reflects their relationship with the Bible (**Week 3 - Matthew 5:17**). He has a high view of the Word of God. He says their righteousness has to surpass that of the “religious” people to get into the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:19). How is that possible? Jesus is going deeper here. There is a righteousness that is not just external works but an internal heart posture. This is what many refer to as the “greater righteousness.” He calls His followers to be pure in heart. He builds on that section by saying their relationship with God is also reflective of their relationship with others (**Week 4 - Matthew 5:23-24**). And this is where He camps for a while. He teaches several different subjects about how to relate to others.

The first is the call to be a person of character and integrity, telling his followers to be the type of people who do what they say and say what they mean (**Week 5 - Matthew 5:37**). He then focuses on displaying the radical love of Jesus, even when someone may not “deserve” it (**Week 6 - Matthew 5:41-42**). He builds on that by telling of how the love of Jesus has no limits, and neither should their love (**Week 7 - Matthew 5:43-45a**).

Once He transitions out of these ways to relate to others, He leans into their deepest motives. He calls them to live with an audience of One. There is a great reward for the one who seeks the honor of God above the honor of others. This is again a call to deep purity of heart (**Week 8 - Matthew 6:1**).

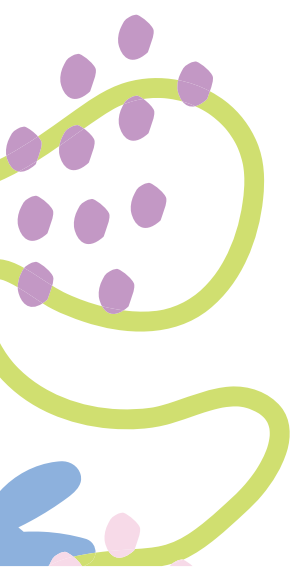
Then he transitions into a section of His teaching that acts as a bridge between two teachings. This bridge begins with a word picture of storing up treasure in heaven “where moth and rust will not destroy and where thieves will not break in and steal” (Matthew 6:20) (**Week 9 - Matthew 6:21**). That bridge leads to a beautiful teaching on His cure for anxiety. It is not possible to just remove anxiety, but it must be replaced with something better. The better thing is seeking His Kingdom. That brings peace within the soul (**Week 10 - Matthew 6:33**).

After this, He calls His followers to not judge but rather to intently examine their hearts (**Week 11 - Matthew 7:5**). Then as He approaches the conclusion of His teaching, He summarizes everything by telling them to do for others as they would want others to do for them. That, He says, sums up the Law and the Prophets. Wow! (**Week 12 - Matthew 7:12**)

After this, He invites them into this new way to live with a dramatic ending. He calls His followers to not just hear His words but to obey them. On the other side of their obedience to Jesus’ invitation is the life they have always longed for, and it’s the life YOUR soul deeply desires (**Week 13 - Matthew 7:24**).

Summary Questions

- What was your favorite activity?
- What was your most fun and/or funniest moment?
- What was the focus of this series?
- What did God show you that was new during this series?
- How do you feel like God has grown your heart during this series?
- What did you learn about God?
- What did you learn about yourself?
- How can we, as a family, align our lives with Jesus’ invitation?



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