

# BIBLE STUDY

## SERIES: ABIDE IN CHRIST

## 10-WEEK BIBLE STUDY PLAN

### THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

As we slow down, remain, and root our lives in Jesus, we invite you to go deeper with this 10-Week Bible Study Plan. While the Abide in Christ series is not explicitly tied to *The Sermon on the Mount*, using Matthew 5-7 provides a practical space to implement the teachings from this series into daily life.

In Bible Study, we can so often be quick to jump to **application**, that we rush past simply BEING with Jesus. Our hope is that while you see parallels from our *Abide in Christ* series and *The Sermon on the Mount*, this study will serve as a springboard for in-depth, personal **observation** of the text.

So this study will look and feel a bit different. In fact, each week "only" consists of 3 SECTIONS to read and study. That's by design. See, instead of having a goal of "getting through all the scriptures," let's shift our mindset to "allow all the scriptures to get through us." (For example: Perhaps your approach is to take each SECTION and split it over 2 days...great! — or perhaps there's a week where just 1 SECTION takes you 4 days to complete...while the other 2 only take you a couple days...that's great, too! Regardless, this is less about structure and more about abiding in Christ through God's Word. Stay in step with Him.)

### Now just a bit of direction

As stated, this study is intentionally broad. However, we do want to provide some helpful starting points to spark your prayerful study of the teachings of Jesus. Consider these tips and over-arching ideas and questions on your journey of **observation**:

- **Highlight** - As you read, take time to **highlight** or make notes of repeating themes, phrases, or words in the text. Note when Jesus uses illustrations and what they communicate. Look up cross-referenced scriptures that show up as footnotes in your Bible.
- **Ask Questions** - Instead of reading for answers, try coming up with questions. *What jumps out to you? Why would Jesus say certain things, and why would He say them in the way He did? What was Jesus conveying? How do His repeated words, phrases, and themes connect throughout the entire sermon (and even to other parts of scripture)?*
- **Consider the Context:** *The Sermon on the Mount* took place early on in Jesus' public ministry. He'd just invited some young guys to follow Him and then drops a world-renowned syllabus in the way of this sermon in front of a huge crowd. So keep in mind that this is a sermon. So, knowing that, we suggest reading it in its entirety *before* you even begin...Matthew chapters 5-7...read them altogether as a sermon. And once you have, begin this *abiding journey*.

## **WEEK 1 | The Upside-Down Way of the Kingdom (Part 1)**

**THEME:** What kind of people belong to God's kingdom?

**SECTION 1:** Matthew 5:1–12

*The Beatitudes (Character)*

**SECTION 2:** Matthew 5:13–16

*Salt & Light (Influence)*

**SECTION 3:** Matthew 5:17–20

*Jesus and the Law*

## **WEEK 2 | The Upside-Down Way of the Kingdom (Part 2)**

**THEME:** God cares about the heart, not just behavior.

**SECTION 4:** Matthew 5:21–26

*Anger & reconciliation*

**SECTION 5:** Matthew 5:27–32

*Lust, faithfulness, and integrity*

**SECTION 6:** Matthew 5:33–37

*Truthfulness & simple honesty*

## **WEEK 3 | The Upside-Down Way of the Kingdom (Part 3)**

**THEME:** Kingdom living reshapes how we respond to others.

**SECTION 7:** Matthew 5:38–42

*Retaliation & generosity*

**SECTION 8:** Matthew 5:43–48

*Loving enemies*

**SECTION 9:** REFLECTION SECTION

*Re-read Matthew 5 as a whole. Consider: How is Jesus redefining righteousness?*

## WEEK 4 | Practicing Faith and Imitating Christ

**THEME:** Who is your audience?

**SECTION 10:** Matthew 6:1–4

*Giving in secret*

**SECTION 11:** Matthew 6:5–15

*Approaching Prayer & The Lord's Prayer*

**SECTION 12:** Matthew 6:16–18

*Fasting & unseen faithfulness*

## WEEK 5 | Trusting GOD, the Father

**THEME:** A kingdom life is free from anxiety because of trust.

**SECTION 13:** Matthew 6:19–24

*Treasure, loyalty, and heart tension*

**SECTION 14:** Matthew 6:25–30

*Do not worry*

**SECTION 15:** Matthew 6:31–34

*Seek first the kingdom*

## WEEK 6 | Relationships and Prayer

**THEME:** How kingdom people relate to others.

**SECTION 16:** REFLECTION SECTION

*Re-read Matthew 6 as a whole. Consider: What direction does Jesus give to us as we abide?*

**SECTION 17:** Matthew 7:1–6

*Judging wisely, not hypocritically*

**SECTION 18:** Matthew 7:7–11

*Ask, seek, knock. Insights to prayer.*

## WEEK 7 | The Narrow Path

**THEME:** Not all paths lead to life.

**SECTION 19:** Matthew 7:12

*The Golden Rule*

**SECTION 20:** Matthew 7:13–14

*The narrow and wide gates*

**SECTION 21:** Matthew 7:15–20

*True and false fruit*

## WEEK 8 | Hearing and Doing

**THEME:** Obedience demonstrates belief.

**SECTION 22:** Matthew 7:21–23

*Knowing Jesus vs. merely using His name*

**SECTION 23:** Matthew 7:24–27

*Wise and foolish builders*

**SECTION 24:** *Matthew 7:28–29*

*Jesus' authority*

## WEEK 9 | Abiding Shifts Our Living

**THEME:** Formation, not just information.

**SECTION 25:** REFLECTION SECTION

Re-read Matthew 7 as a whole. Consider: What direction does Jesus give to us as we abide?

**SECTION 26:** Matthew 5:1–16

REVISIT: *Identity & influence*

**SECTION 27:** Matthew 6:9–13

REVISIT: *The Lord's Prayer (Read this section again, but slow and meditative.)*

## WEEK 10 | The Wrap

**THEME:** What will you do with Jesus' words?

**SECTION 28:** Matthew 7:12–27

REVISIT: *Putting it all into practice*

**SECTION 29:** Matthew 5–7 (full reading)

*Read as one sermon (As you read, do so with a "preacher's voice." Imagine Jesus preaching these very words all at once.)*

**SECTION 30:** Matthew 5–7 (selected highlights)

*Choose 5–7 verses that stand out most. Revisit those as you meditate on what and why they jumped out to you.*