

The Sermon on the Mount, Part 1 (1 of 10) Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, September 7th, 2025



Sermon Series Summary

Matthew 5-7 is known as the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus went up a mountain and a large crowd gathered to hear him preach a powerful message—proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom and casting a vision of what it looks like to live in right relationship with God, our neighbors, and our enemies. These three chapters contain the core of Jesus’ teachings and his most well-known sayings, including some of the most rigorous ethical demands in the Bible. Join us for Part 1 of this series (Sept 7-Nov 9), as we explore the message and implications of Jesus’ invitation to enter the narrow gate and follow him.

Sermon Title: Enter the Narrow Gate

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:17; 7:13-14; 10:38; 16:24-25

Sermon Focus: It’s important to understand the context, purpose, and literary structure of the Sermon on the Mount. This will help in how we approach, hear, and apply Jesus’ core teachings. Jesus doesn’t want fans; he wants followers. Therefore, to begin our journey, we’re going to start at the end where Jesus closes his sermon with a choice. In the first message of our series, Pastor David helps us to hear Jesus’ call to repent of our own way so that we can respond to his invitation to walk the narrow road to life.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. How familiar are you with the Sermon on the Mount? Can you recall the first time you heard about it or read it for yourself? If you grew up in the church, how prominent was Jesus' core teachings in your congregation and upbringing?
2. Go back and read the slide with all the quotes about the Sermon on the Mount from Christians. As we begin this series on the Sermon on the Mount, are you excited, nervous, and/or unsure about how you feel about it? As we approach and anticipate a deep exploration and reflection on Jesus' core teachings, what thoughts and feelings do you have? Be honest as you share with your group.
3. While interpretation is required, Jesus intended his followers to put his words into practice as individuals and as a faith community, bearing witness to who he is and to the gospel of God's coming Kingdom. John Stott once wrote that the standards of the Sermon on the Mount are attainable, "but only by those who have experienced the new birth." Why do you think the indwelling Holy Spirit is vital for embodying the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount? What might it look like to *rely* upon the Spirit as you read and embody its message?
4. Read Matthew 4:17, which comes before and sets us up for the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5-7. Jesus is telling us that we must open our hearts to his words. We must be willing to change, turn from our own way, and get on the right path. What emotions do you feel at the thought that God may ask you to repent of something as we go through the Sermon on the Mount?
5. Read Matthew 7:13-14 in your group. Like a movie that begins at the end, Pastor David drew our attention to the start of the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount—the choice. Jesus says there are two paths we can travel: the wide path or the narrow path (see sermon slide). Reflect on this verse and think back to what was shared in the sermon. How is God speaking to you in Matt 7:13-14?
6. Jesus' sermon is not a "counsel of despair" (Luther) but an invitation to fully enter life in the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus does not give us the Sermon on the Mount to tell us how bad we are and that we should try harder. Instead, his words are an invitation to experience the life of heaven, and to inspire us to a greater righteousness with the help of his Spirit. How does knowing that change how you approach the Sermon on the Mount? As a disciple, are you prepared to take inventory of your walk with Christ? Are you ready to be inspired by Jesus?
7. We encourage you to close your time together in prayer. Based on the things shared in your conversation, pray for each other's spiritual needs.