

The Sermon on the Mount, Part 1 (4 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 28th, 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: A Greater Righteousness

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:17-20; 7:12; 22:36-40

Sermon Focus: Jesus teaches about a greater righteousness that fulfills the Torah (Law) and Prophets. He believed that the Hebrew Scriptures revealed how we are to live in right relationship with God, our neighbors, and our enemies. But Jesus also claimed that he was uniquely moving the story forward to its divinely intended goal and purpose. In the fourth message of our series, Pastor David shares how Jesus fulfills the Scriptures and then calls us to be righteous like Christ and live by God’s wisdom.

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

1. Open your Bibles to Matthew 5:17-20. First, take a minute or two to read it silently and slowly to yourself. After that, have someone read it aloud to the whole group. What jumps out at you about this passage? Is there a word or a phrase that stands out above the others? What do you hear Jesus saying?
2. Jesus didn't come to cancel the Law and Prophets but to bring them to their intended goal. He embodies the covenant, the promises, and the mission of Israel. So, our faith is rooted in God's larger story of Scripture. We don't cut off the Old Testament; we read it through Christ, who shows us its true meaning. What are your thoughts and reaction to Jesus being the *definitive interpreter* of the Hebrew Scriptures? How might that change the way you read the OT?
3. Pastor David said the following: *"Many evangelicals just flatten out their Bible and treat it all as equally authoritative; pulling verses out of context and just picking and choosing based on whatever it is they want to justify (e.g., waging war, using violence against enemies, demonizing gay people, seeking political power, etc.); and they completely disregard the way Jesus reads the Old Testament, interprets the Law & the Prophets, and shows us what it looks like fulfilled in him; and what it looks like lived out the way God intended. And so, we just jump over Jesus to support all kinds of carnality—pretending as if there isn't a new covenant in Christ's blood."* How have you seen this today?
4. Ask yourself, Have I been reading the Bible in a flat, equally authoritative, "jumping-over-Jesus" sort of way... or is Jesus central and supreme over it all? Are there passages in the Old Testament that Jesus—his words and his life—need to have authority over? Be honest about how this might challenge you.
5. **LIFE ON MISSION QUESTION:** Disciples are called to embody God's reign. We are commissioned to live in a way that points others to Christ—the fulfillment of God's redemptive story and God in the flesh. Our walk with Jesus ought to be visible to others: how we live, love, forgive, and pursue justice all testify whether his Kingdom has taken root in us. How is the Spirit inviting you to put Jesus' words and this message into practice? What might it look like to apply Matthew 5:17-20 to your life so that your neighbors and enemies can see Jesus in you?
6. How can you pray for each other before you go out to live on mission?