

The Sermon on the Mount, Part 1 (2 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 14th, 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: The Good Life of the Kingdom

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:17, 23-25; 5:1-12

Sermon Focus: Jesus begins his sermon with an opening description of those who are being invited into the Kingdom, and the sort of people that God blesses. It’s not the list that the world has conditioned us to expect. In what is commonly known as *The Beatitudes*, Jesus’ teaching reveals a complete reversal of our value system and tells us what “the good life” looks like in the Kingdom of heaven. In the second message of our series, Pastor David invites us to come into the “blessed” life of God’s children.

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

1. Read Matthew 4:23-25. Pastor David began by drawing our attention to the sort of crowd that gathered around Jesus to hear the Sermon on the Mount. Based on Matthew's description, this crowd is made up of common folks (both Jews & Gentiles) who have no power and are wanting a better life than what Rome has to offer them. Describe the crowd that might gather around Jesus today? If Jesus were to preach to a crowd in America today, who might show up?
2. Read Matthew 5:1-12. In place of "Blessed are..." Pastor David invited us to hear Jesus saying, "The good life belongs to..." for a fresh reading of the text. What new light or understanding do you feel that you have after the message? What helped or spoke to you the most in a fresh reading of the Beatitudes?
3. How does this teaching of Jesus and his vision of "the good life" impact your portrait of God and your understanding of the Kingdom of heaven? What do the Beatitudes say about what God is like and what he wants for us as his children?
4. Does your view of "the good life" align with God's upside-down Kingdom? What challenges you the most about how Jesus lays out the good life in the Beatitudes? How do you need to accept Jesus' reframe and change your view?
5. Reflect on "The Way to the Good Life" slide that compares American culture with the Kingdom of heaven. How is the Spirit inviting you to accept the reversal of the world's value system so that you can experience and embody the good life of the Kingdom? Are there aspects of our culture that you've accepted or feel influenced by that you personally need to reject for the Kingdom?
6. **LIFE ON MISSION QUESTION:** As you think about the troubles in this country over this past week, do you see the relevancy and the need for accepting what Jesus taught in Matthew 5:3-12? How does this apply to our situation today? And how might the Spirit be inviting us to live out this message in our everyday lives? Give specific examples of what it looks like to embody Jesus' teachings.
7. Finally, what weighs the heaviest on your heart right now? What do you need to take to the Lord in prayer together? We invite you to close your time in prayer for each other, our church, our community, our nation, and our world.