
Next Week's Life Group: Follow Me ... To Impossible
Next Week's Story: Mark 9:22 - The Distaught Father

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by,* and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect with God and with others through relationships - growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus and inspiring a culture of discipleship as we do life together. Life Groups are loving, safe, and interactive places where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, serve, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others. Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.



FOLLOW ME

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:12

GETTING STARTED

Who's had the most impact in your life?

STORY BACKGROUND

Matthew places the "Sermon On The Mount" in chapter five. This is not the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. His ministry began in the previous chapter. In fact, Jesus had already performed miracles in Galilee prior to this sermon.

Jesus had a great following, but they were only interested in signs and miracles. The "Sermon on the Mount" is one of the most important collection of teachings Jesus gave. It defined what it meant to be a true follower of Christ. Jesus preached about how the Son of God should behave and the relationship of the Disciples with the world. He also challenged them by stating how He came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets by teaching His Disciples the revelations of "you have heard" into "but I say to you". Jesus would later teach about prayer, fasting, the love for wealth, the "cure" for anxiety, judgement of others, the importance of prayer and persevering, producing fruit by being a "good tree", and how to rely on His Words as their foundation. His messages confused and astounded the people who were listening to Him, for He was teaching with authority.

TO THE MOUNTAIN



STORY: Matthew 5:1-12

MEMORY VERSE:

Proverbs 3:13 - *Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding,*



Head Level: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- Matthew 5:3-11 are called "The Beatitudes." What is a Beatitude?
- What is the contrast between the first and second part of each verse from 5:3-11?



Heart Level: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- How can someone be blessed while being insulted, persecuted, and/or talked falsely against?
- As Jesus prepares His followers for ministry He lays the foundation for future teachings. What heart is He asking of us?



Hands Level: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

- How can we align our hearts to better understand His desires for our hearts in tough situations?
- How can you choose blessing over your circumstances? Will you rejoice for your reward in heaven instead of reacting to your circumstances in the world?