

The Best Sermon Ever

**Two thousand years ago,
a man named Jesus gave
the best sermon ever...**

When Jesus stood before the crowds of people and delivered that sermon, He spoke about a different way to live. The crowds were amazed at this powerful sermon, but they also had to wrestle with some of the difficult personal and social implications of what Jesus was teaching. And although so much has changed over the last 2,000 years, we too have so much to learn by wrestling with the truths in this sermon. The way of Jesus leads to life and life to the fullest, and **this guide was created with you and your journey in mind.**

Throughout this guide, we will look at several different topics that are just as relevant to us today as they were to the original crowds who heard Jesus speak. Each week you will find a section of Jesus' **Sermon on the Mount** from the Book of Matthew that corresponds with that topic, as well as a truth from the Old Testament that relates to Jesus' teaching. There are also some questions to prompt your thinking and space for you to write out and process your thoughts. We encourage you to take some time with these questions and consider what it means for you and your life today.

Let's dive into **The Best Sermon Ever!**

Life & Death

■ **Matthew 5:3-12** NIV

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

■ **Psalms 16:11** NLT

You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

How do you see
Scripture speak to the
topic of Life & Death?

**Where do you struggle with
the truths of this topic?**

**What heart or life change
needs to happen because of
what Jesus is teaching you?**

**How do you plan to respond
either in prayer or by sharing
with someone else?**

Influence

■ **Matthew 5:13-16** NIV

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

■ **Proverbs 10:17** NIV

Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life,
but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.

How do you see
Scripture speak to the
topic of Influence?

**Where do you struggle with
the truths of this topic?**

**What heart or life change
needs to happen because of
what Jesus is teaching you?**

**How do you plan to respond
either in prayer or by sharing
with someone else?**

Anger

■ **Matthew 5:21-22** NIV

You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

■ **Proverbs 29:11** NIV

Fools give full vent to their rage,
but the wise bring calm in the end.

How do you see
Scripture speak to the
topic of Anger?

**Where do you struggle with
the truths of this topic?**

**What heart or life change
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what Jesus is teaching you?**

**How do you plan to respond
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Integrity

■ **Matthew 5:33-37** NIV

Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

■ **Psalms 26:11** NIV

I lead a blameless life;
deliver me and be merciful to me.

How do you see
Scripture speak to the
topic of Integrity?

**Where do you struggle with
the truths of this topic?**

**What heart or life change
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Lust

■ **Matthew 5:27-30** NIV

You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

■ **Proverbs 4:23** NIV

Above all else, guard your heart,
for everything you do flows from it.

How do you see
Scripture speak to the
topic of Lust?



Where do you struggle with the truths of this topic?

What heart or life change needs to happen because of what Jesus is teaching you?

How do you plan to respond either in prayer or by sharing with someone else?

Divorce

■ **Matthew 5:31-32** NIV

It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

■ **Proverbs 5:18** NIV

May your fountain be blessed,
and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.

How do you see
Scripture speak to the
topic of Divorce?

Where do you struggle with the truths of this topic?

What heart or life change needs to happen because of what Jesus is teaching you?

How do you plan to respond either in prayer or by sharing with someone else?

LGBTQIA+

■ **Matthew 7:1-5** NIV

Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

■ **Proverbs 11:17** NLT

Your kindness will reward you,
but your cruelty will destroy.

How do you see
Scripture speak to the
topic of LGBTQIA+?

**Where do you struggle with
the truths of this topic?**

**What heart or life change
needs to happen because of
what Jesus is teaching you?**

**How do you plan to respond
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with someone else?**

Prayer

■ **Matthew 6:5-8** NIV

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

■ **Psalms 5:3** NIV

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.

How do you see
Scripture speak to the
topic of Prayer?

Where do you struggle with the truths of this topic?

What heart or life change needs to happen because of what Jesus is teaching you?

How do you plan to respond either in prayer or by sharing with someone else?

Motive

■ **Matthew 6:1-4** NIV

Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

■ **Proverbs 16:2** NLT

People may be pure in their own eyes,
but the Lord examines their motives.

How do you see
Scripture speak to the
topic of Motive?

**Where do you struggle with
the truths of this topic?**

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Anxiety

■ **Matthew 6:25-34** NIV

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

■ **Psalms 55:22** NIV

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you;
he will never let the righteous be shaken.

How do you see
Scripture speak to the
topic of Anxiety?

**Where do you struggle with
the truths of this topic?**

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Judging

■ **Matthew 7:1-5** NIV

Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

■ **Psalms 116:5** NIV

The Lord is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

How do you see
Scripture speak to the
topic of Judging?

**Where do you struggle with
the truths of this topic?**

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Heaven & Hell

■ **Matthew 7:13-14** NIV

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

■ **Proverbs 16:25** NIV

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end, it leads to death.



**How do you see
Scripture speak to the
topic of Heaven & Hell?**

**Where do you struggle with
the truths of this topic?**

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Wisdom

■ **Matthew 7:24-27** NIV

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

■ **Psalms 119:60** NLT

I will hurry, without delay,
to obey your commands.

How do you see
Scripture speak to the
topic of Wisdom?

**Where do you struggle with
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Notes



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