



# The Best Life

A SERIES THROUGH THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

**LIFE**  
**GROUPS**  
WEEK 1 • FEB 8

### **NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT**

Hope changes everything.

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### **ICE BREAKER**

When was there a time you had to act the opposite of what was happening around you?

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### **BACKGROUND**

The Sermon on the Mount. Today, we sometimes see this as a message given by Jesus Christ to a crowd of people alongside a mountain side and not necessary directly applicable to our lives today. The beauty of this portion of scripture is the impact it can have on our lives today. As Christians, we are the citizens of the kingdom of God. And yet, we still live in this place we call life on earth. How do the two exist at the same time?

Saint Augustine, a foundational Roman African theologian (354-430 AD), said this portion of scripture is “a perfect standard of the Christian life” (Alkin, 2019). It starts to show us what a transformed life in Jesus gives us in our newfound citizenship – blessed. As Christians, we are blessed to receive God’s grace, favor and eternal joy.

The reality of this calls us to live a life different from the world. For we are in the world but not of the world (John 17:11, 16). This is otherwise known as the Christian counterculture. And this culture not only exists today but also amongst those that have gone before us – the Israelites, after being called out of Egypt. God called them to live differently from those in the land of Canaan (Leviticus 18:1-4). Throughout the centuries, our God has called us to be a different people, a light to the world. It is through the true transformation in Christ that we experience the spiritual rebirth producing the inner righteousness that empowers us to live this life differently.

### **REVIEW**

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



**KEY VERSES:** Matthew 5:1-2

“Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.”

**READ:** Matthew 5:1-2; John 10:10



**HEAD LEVEL:** *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. What is the objective of the thief (John 10:10a)?
2. What is the objective of Jesus Christ (John 10:10b)?
3. Where did Jesus go to teach his disciples?



**HEART LEVEL:** *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. What are some ways that the world's culture acts as the thief? What does it steal, kill or destroy? How?
2. What are some ways that the Christian counterculture brings life to the fullest? How? Why?
3. Just as Jesus preached to the crowds and disciples sitting at his feet; so also did Moses, on Mount Sinai, first teach the people of God ethics by the law (Ex. 19-20). How are the two similar? How are the two different?



**HANDS LEVEL:** *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. How has this study highlighted areas in your life/world that have been stolen and dimmed?
2. What areas of a Christian counterculture give you the most hope or joy?
3. What does it look like to live out the Christian counterculture today/tomorrow?



**MEMORY VERSE:** John 10:10

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*

### PRAYER REQUESTS

*(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)*