

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTION:

READ Galatians 5:16-26. These verses describe spiritual fruit as something that the Spirit grows in us, not something we can force. According to this passage, what conditions allow the Spirit to produce fruit in a believer's life? What is the connection between Paul's words here, and Jesus' Beatitudes? Which fruit or Beatitude do you see most clearly in your own life right now? Which ones do you need to seek the Spirit's help?

PRAYER REQUESTS:

WEEKLY BIBLE READING PLAN

From the READ SCRIPTURE app, Available for both Android and Apple devices.

In the **READ SCRIPTURE** app, be sure to set your start date for January 1, 2026 in the app settings, and follow along with us!

January 25: Exodus 25-27 | Psalm 25
January 26: Exodus 28-29 | Psalm 26
January 27: Exodus 30-31 | Psalm 27
January 28: Exodus 32-34 | Psalm 28
January 29: Exodus 35-40 | Psalm 29
January 30: Leviticus 1-4 | Psalm 30
January 31: Leviticus 5-7 | Psalm 31

Sermon on the Mount

Living for the Kingdom

Matthew 5: 1 - 16 | **HOW TO START A REVOLUTION**

Pastor Justin Carruthers | January 25, 2026

STRATEGIES IN SEARCH OF POWER (THEN, AND NOW)

1. The Essenes - power through _____
2. Zealots - power through _____
3. Sadducees - power through _____
4. Pharisees - power through _____

JESUS' REVOLUTION

- Jesus has come to liberate His people from _____, and to lead us home to God.

HOW TO ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM

1. God's kingdom begins with _____ (spiritual _____)
2. God's kingdom forms a new posture toward _____ and my vision for the _____ (spiritual _____)
2 Chronicles 7:14
3. God's kingdom reorders my _____ (spiritual _____)
4. God's kingdom sustains faithfulness through _____ (spiritual _____)
5. God's kingdom _____ transformed people into the world



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LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What is a personality trait that immediately draws you to someone?
2. What your best secret to a successful relationship (*of any kind*)?

QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Which of the four strategies (*withdrawal, force, compromise, moral domination*) are you most tempted toward when you think about changing the world? How does Jesus' way in the Beatitudes challenge that instinct?

READ SCRIPTURE

READ Matthew 5:1-12

1. How does this passage highlight God's presence in our world?
2. What does this passage say about our broken human condition?
3. How does this passage call me to make change in my life?



JANUARY 25-31, 2026 | WEEK #2

DIGGING DEEPER

1. READ Matthew 4:23-25. Matthew sets the stage for, "*the Sermon on the Mount*," where people from everywhere have shown up. In this relatively short time of Jesus' ministry, how and why do you think His message spread as quickly as it did?

2. READ Matthew 5:2-11, 22:34-40. These nine statements can be thematically divided into two: vs. 3-6 describe our *inner devotion to God*, and vs. 7-11 describe our *outward action towards the world*. Why do you think Jesus uses this structure to teach?

- **READ Matthew 5:3-6.** How does this *inner devotion towards God* affect or alter our worldview, and our approach to facing hard situations in the world all around us?

- **READ Matthew 5:7-11.** How do these *outward actions towards the world* frame how we look at, and interact with, our neighbors??

3. READ Matthew 5:10-12. The last two Beatitudes describe how we remain faithful when under pressure. Which of these Beatitudes is most countercultural today? Why?

- **READ Isaiah 51:7-8, John 15:18-20.** While persecution is not proof of Christ-like behavior, it often comes with it. How do these words help shape what it means to be successful or faithful in our faith?

TAKING IT HOME

READ Matthew 5:11-12, James 1:2-4, Philippians 3:20-21. In the Reformed Tradition, we often speak of our assurance of faith – of how we're held by God, and that with our faith in God, we will persevere through all of life. How does this assurance and perseverance contribute to the spiritual revolution that the Lord is leading?

