

CAN YOU BELIEVE GOD WANTS TO BLESS YOUR LIFE?

Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount, "You are blessed." And does Jesus really expect you to live the hard teachings that follow these blessings?

Randy Harris says "Yes, Jesus does!" But even in following these difficult teachings there is more blessing than we can imagine.

But how do you begin to receive these blessings that come from following Jesus' teachings?

In twelve film segments, Randy Harris takes you into the greatest sermon ever preached, saying Jesus fully intends for us to have integrity that's not for sale, sexual purity that begins in the heart, and a life of obedience that's a response to the profound grace of God.

This 2-DVD set and companion booklet provides a guide for group study, personal time, or church viewing for people who want to live the way of Jesus. Centered on the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7, the video includes 12 segments of 12-15 minutes each.

RANDY HARRIS is a professor of theology, author, and popular speaker worldwide. He lives what he teaches, speaks with wit and wisdom, and impacts students and leaders throughout the world.

No one articulates deep, rich, Christ-centered words any better. — Mike Cope, author of Megan's Secrets

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Wise and Foolish People
Matthew 7:24-29

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Extra: Living the Sermon

DVD
LIVING JESUS
A Film Series
RANDY HARRIS



RANDY HARRIS

LIVING JESUS

How the Greatest Sermon Ever
Will Change Your Life for Good

LEAFWOOD
Publishers

www.leafwoodpublishers.com

\$24.99 Bible Study/Christian Living

ISBN 978-0-89112-370-5



A FILM SERIES ON THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Discussion Guide

1 | Start at the End: Wise and Foolish People

Read Matthew 7:24-29

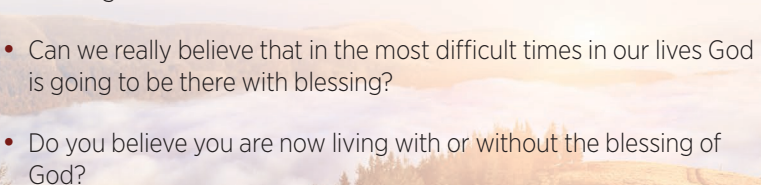
The Sermon on the Mount is practical advice on how to live life in Jesus. Now, it's up to you as you read: "Will you?"

- How does the image of the wise man and the foolish man illustrate the way we keep the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount?
- Do you think the Sermon on the Mount is doable? Or is the Sermon so hard that all you can do is know you are a failure and fall on God's grace?
- Is this life Jesus is describing one you think you can live?
- The question is not, Can you? The question is, *Will you?*

2 | You Are Blessed

Read Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount, not with commands or difficult mysteries, but with a word of blessing for the humble in heart.

- Do you tend to read these statements of Jesus as commands or blessings?
 - Can we really believe that in the most difficult times in our lives God is going to be there with blessing?
 - Do you believe you are now living with or without the blessing of God?
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- Do you feel blessed by God?
 - Do you believe that God blesses the poor? Do you believe God blesses people who mourn? Those who suffer persecution?
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3 | You Are Salt and Light

Read Matthew 5:13-16

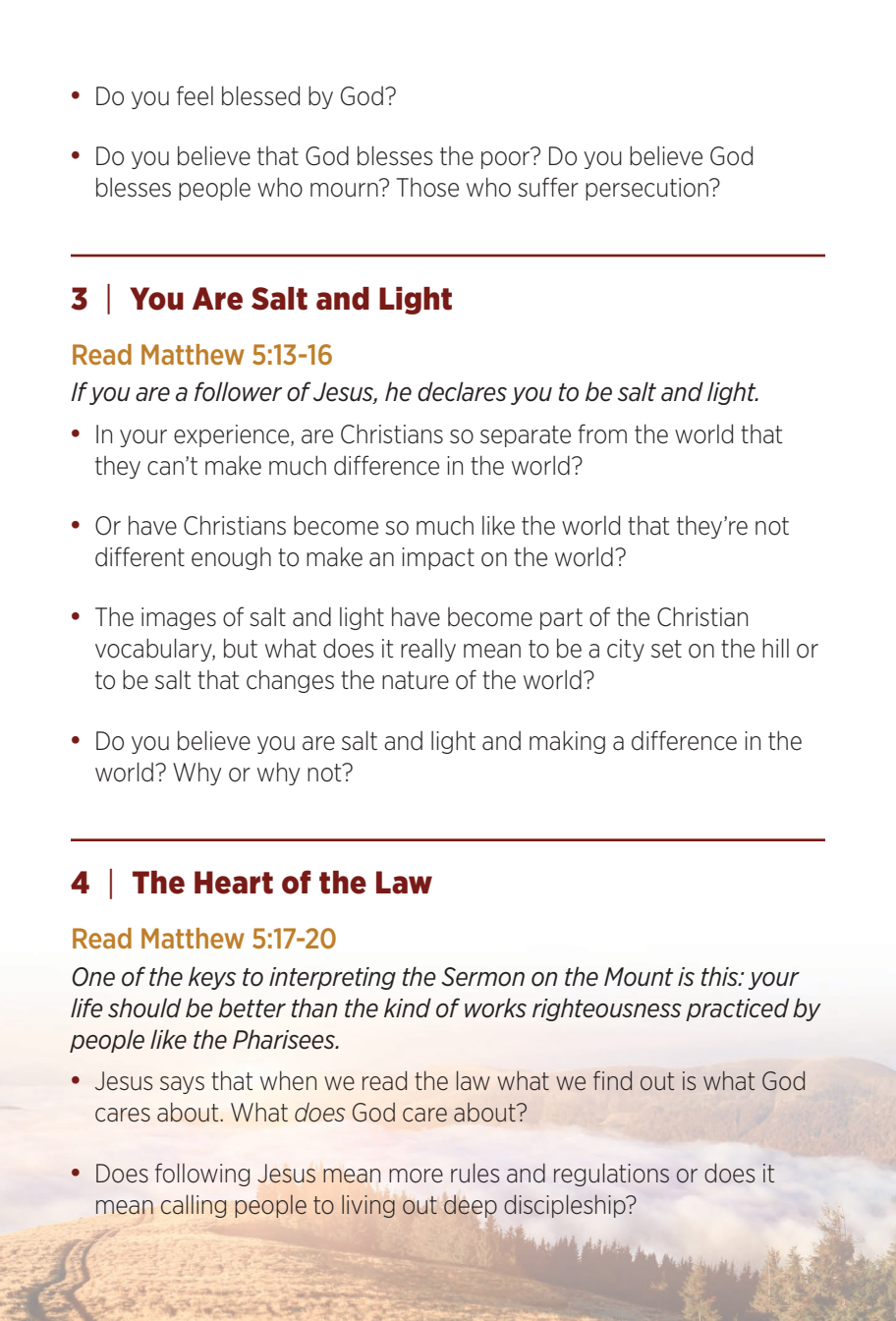
If you are a follower of Jesus, he declares you to be salt and light.

- In your experience, are Christians so separate from the world that they can't make much difference in the world?
 - Or have Christians become so much like the world that they're not different enough to make an impact on the world?
 - The images of salt and light have become part of the Christian vocabulary, but what does it really mean to be a city set on the hill or to be salt that changes the nature of the world?
 - Do you believe you are salt and light and making a difference in the world? Why or why not?
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4 | The Heart of the Law

Read Matthew 5:17-20

One of the keys to interpreting the Sermon on the Mount is this: your life should be better than the kind of works righteousness practiced by people like the Pharisees.

- Jesus says that when we read the law what we find out is what God cares about. What *does* God care about?
 - Does following Jesus mean more rules and regulations or does it mean calling people to living out deep discipleship?
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- Are you willing to put yourself under the discipline of the law the way Jesus sees it? Explain.
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5 | **Idiot! Stupid! Moron!**

Read Matthew 5:21-26

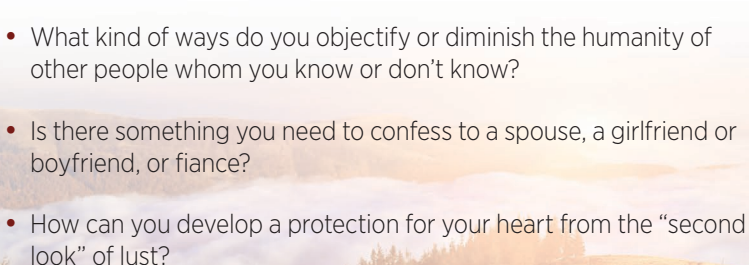
Words are weapons of mass destruction, but they can also be used to rebuild relationships.

- What are ways we might begin with degrading thoughts, move to hateful thoughts, then end up with murderous thoughts?
 - Why is it easier to destroy than to build?
 - What have you done to restore a relationship in the last 10 years?
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6 | **God Made Sex Really Good**

Read Matthew 5:27-32

Sex truly is God's idea from the beginning and humanity has found ways to corrupt it.

- What is badly wrong in our culture when it comes to sexuality?
 - In what ways has sex and sin been viewed as equivalent in church teachings you've experienced?
 - What kind of ways do you objectify or diminish the humanity of other people whom you know or don't know?
 - Is there something you need to confess to a spouse, a girlfriend or boyfriend, or fiancée?
 - How can you develop a protection for your heart from the "second look" of lust?
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7 | Deep Integrity

Read Matthew 5:33-37

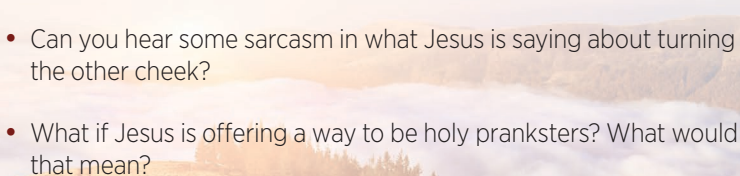
Have integrity so deep that no oath or promise or stack of Bibles can add truth to your words.

- What if your final grade in the last class you needed to graduate from college came down to one question of honesty: Did you read *Moby Dick*? Would you be tempted to say you read *Moby Dick*, even though you really only read the Cliff Notes and saw the movie?
- If there's a high enough price, is your integrity for sale?
- What are you doing about the integrity crisis in the world?
- Are you only honest when it leads to success? What about when it makes you look bad?
- Is integrity something you can "sort of" have?

8 | Holy Prank!

Read Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus offers us another way. When someone does something against us, we don't retaliate. We love our enemies rather than making war on them. Of all the teachings on the Sermon on the Mount, we believe this the least. This is not about politics. Until this love of enemies becomes the way of our own lives, how can we expect politics to do this?

- Does the legal system really keep us from being evil?
 - Can you hear some sarcasm in what Jesus is saying about turning the other cheek?
 - What if Jesus is offering a way to be holy pranksters? What would that mean?
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- Does responding to violence with violence work in our world today?
 - Do you have enemies?
 - How difficult it is to love “irritants”?
 - Are you willing to try Jesus’ way, the love of enemies?
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9 | Watch Me!

Read Matthew 6:1-18


One of the greatest temptations of all time is to do good things for the wrong reasons, seeking affirmation from other human beings instead of from God. What if we lived our lives with an audience of One?

- What is the counterweight Jesus proposes to the desire to impress other people?
 - What examples can you think of when you wanted human affirmation more than God’s affirmation?
 - How do we break free from an addiction to affirmation from people that overshadows affirmation from God?
 - How do you view generosity? As something done in secret or done publicly?
 - What do you think about secret generosity as a new spiritual discipline? How can you practice it?
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10 | Treasures in Heaven

Read Matthew 6:19-34

When many people on earth love things and use people, having our treasure in heaven means using things and loving people.

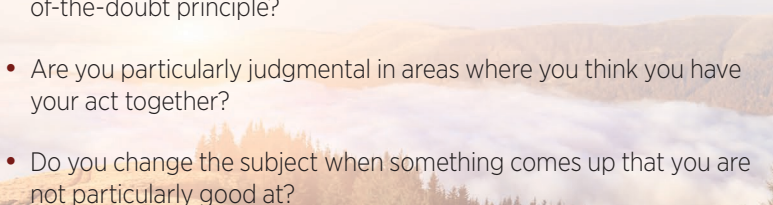


- Could you live in or even visit a bad neighborhood in your town?
 - Would you rather have a job you hate and keep all the money for yourself, or have a fulfilling job and share the salary with family and friends?
 - Do you feel as if you need to take care of yourself because you're not sure God will?
 - Do we really believe God can be trusted to provide for us?
 - What is the time and investment you have in stuff compared to how much time and investment you have in relationships with God and others?
 - Do you love things and use people or love people and use things?
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11 | Stick in My Eye

Read Matthew 7:1-14

When Jesus says that we can trust God to give us good gifts, he presents his Father as the model of the one who knows how to take care of us, who will be generous with all that he has. What if we were generous, not just with our money, but with all that we have? What if we were generous with our love, our sympathy, our compassion, our spirit?

- Are we not to judge at all or just not judge too harshly?
 - What would happen in relationships if everyone adopted the benefit-of-the-doubt principle?
 - Are you particularly judgmental in areas where you think you have your act together?
 - Do you change the subject when something comes up that you are not particularly good at?
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12 | Wolves in Sheep's Clothing

Read Matthew 7:15-23

The Sermon on the Mount is a full score card for life. It's the way Jesus keeps score. What if you spent your whole life caring about things that Jesus really didn't care that much about? When all he wanted was a life formed according to the cross. A cross-shaped life. A life lived according to the Sermon on the Mount.

Have you ever done some big project and no one appreciated anything of your work except for the bottom line? Describe.

- Jesus keeps score differently from the way we do. How do you keep score in your relationships?
- How do you keep score with co-workers?
- How does your church keep score with one another?
- What are some practical ways you can change the way you keep score with one another in your home?

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Special thanks to Sandy Beal and the Windsor Hotel, Abilene, Texas; Highland Church of Christ, Abilene, Texas; Abilene Christian University; Coach Britt Bonneau, ACU; Kim Crenshaw and the Grace Museum, Abilene; Buffalo Gap Historic Courthouse; Buffalo Gap Cemetery; Dave Perry, Buffalo Gap Cemetery Association; Scott Delony; and Duane Anderson.

