



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew 5–7

The first few chapters of Matthew's Gospel lay out the evidence of Jesus as the true Son of God and heir to David's throne. Then, the three chapters that comprise the Sermon on the Mount reveal Matthew's purpose statement for the rest of his writings. This discourse—the longest recorded single account of Jesus' words in Scripture—relates Jesus' teachings about the kingdom of God. As the Ten Commandments defined the moral demands for right relationship with God, so this sermon defined the moral demands for entering the kingdom of God. Both help disciples know that without God's help we can never keep the moral demands of these lists, thus highlighting our need for rescue.

Matthew logically organized the sermon to help his readers focus on the truths Jesus was sharing. Beginning with the Beatitudes (*see* 5:3-12), Jesus defined for His followers what life in the kingdom would look like. These attitudes are virtues that the true follower should display when interacting with others. Understanding that people would always be surrounded by the world, Jesus followed the beatitudes with two examples of how followers should respond as they share the light and flavor of Christ to the world.

Matthew records Jesus' words again in Matthew 5:17-18 to define Jesus' purpose on the earth. Christ says that His purpose was not to abolish the law, but to only do what no other human would ever be able to do and completely and perfectly fulfill the law. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, the law has been fulfilled, and though people still sin, forgiveness has come through Jesus' fulfillment of the law.

The remainder of the sermon begins a comparison between the old covenant that was given to Moses and the new covenant that was being inaugurated in Christ. Jesus took the law, expounded upon it, and gave examples of pious living, social issues, money, relationships, and ends illustrating the only two responses to the message—yes or no!

SESSION FOCUS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 5–7

MEMORY VERSE: 1 John 4:9

BIBLE VERSE: Matthew 5:16

TEXT TRUTH: Jesus taught His followers how to love and obey God.

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Locates many books in the Bible without assistance. Becomes familiar with the contents of specific books. Identifies some of the books of the Bible by the names of the writers. Knows the Bible teaches people how God wants them to live.

BIBLE STUDY

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *construction paper, shape cutouts, small flashlights, painter's tape, "Chorazin Plateau" (Slide)*
- Examine the Text:** *"Flowers and Birds" (Poster Pack), "Name Cards" (Printable), painter's tape, "Matthew" (Books of the Bible Posters), Bibles, "Text Truth 2" (Slide)*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- Memory Verse:** *"1 John 4:9" (Poster Pack), copy paper, painter's tape, flashlights*
- Prayer:** *Family Cards*

APPLY THE TRUTH

(20 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Review:** *large paper, markers*
- Tech Connect** *(Optional): a device with the LifeWay Kids App*

ACTIVITIES

(20 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *"Whirly Bird" (Printable), crayons or markers, kids' scissors, Bible*
- Move:** *"Near and Far Game Prompts" (Printable)*
- Make:** *black cardstock, large amount of salt, eye droppers, liquid watercolors, bowls, liquid glue, cookie sheet, plastic spoons, "Allergy Alert" (Printables), (Optional: cardboard, food coloring, and water)*
- Explore:** *"Wilton Family Photo" and "Meet the Wiltons" (Printables)*

Leaders, grow on the go! Listen to session-by-session training every week on Ministry Grid, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, LifeWay's Digital Pass, or visit goexplorethebible.com/kids-training.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew 5–7

Crowds of people gathered to hear Jesus teach. When He saw the people, He went up on the mountain and sat down. His disciples came near and Jesus began to teach them.

“You are the salt of the earth. If salt is no longer tasty, it is not good. It can only be thrown away. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden from sight. People do not light a lamp and cover it up with a basket. People light a lamp and put it on a stand to give light to the entire house. Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and give God in heaven glory.”

Then Jesus taught His disciples about prayer and how to pray. He gave them an example: “Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, Your name is honored and holy. May Your kingdom come and Your will be done on earth just like it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive those who owe us. Please help us resist the devil and his temptations.”

Jesus told the people not to worry. God takes care of the flowers and the birds. They don’t worry about what to wear or eat. God cares for them. Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. And God will provide for you. Don’t worry.”

Jesus also told parables. He said, “People who hear what I say and believe and act on it will be like the sensible man who built his house on the rock. The rain came, the rivers rose, and the winds blew hard against the house. But the house didn’t fall because it was built on the solid rock foundation. People who hear My words and ignore them are like the foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain came, the rivers rose, and the winds blew hard against the house. Then the house collapsed.”

CHRIST IN CONTEXT:

In the Book of Matthew, Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament promises. He is the King that God’s people had been waiting for. As Matthew told the story of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, he described Jesus as King and Messiah. Jesus reigns over all and He has power over everything—even death.

DON’T FORGET TO SEND HOME THESE FAMILY RESOURCES EACH WEEK:

- “Explore the Bible at Home” (Printables)
- Explore the Bible: Kids Family Cards

BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Jump In: construction paper, shape cut outs, small flashlights, painter's tape, "Chorazin Plateau" (Slide)
- Examine the Text: "Flowers and Birds" (Poster Pack), "Name Cards" (Printable), painter's tape, "Matthew" (Books of the Bible Posters), Bibles, "Text Truth 2" (Slide)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: "1 John 4:9" (Poster Pack), copy paper, painter's tape, flashlights
- Prayer: Family Cards

Need an Opening Activity? Choose one of the activities in the *Activities* section and adapt it to introduce the session.

JUMP IN

□ *Before group, attach different shape cut outs around the room.*

- Welcome your kids back for another week. Give each child a small, inexpensive flashlight. Call out a shape and ask children to shine their light on the shape. Continue play until all the shapes have been named. Speed up the game to make it more of a challenge.
- Say: "Jesus teaches us that we are supposed to let our light shine. Just as you shined your lights on the different shapes that I called out, we are supposed to shine our lights for others. This doesn't mean we need to carry around a flashlight and shine them at people. That would be silly, right? Our light comes from Jesus. When we are kind to others, obey our parents and teachers, and help other people, we are showing God's love. These are examples of our light! In our Bible study today, we are going to learn how **Jesus taught His followers how to love and obey God.**"
- Display the "Chorazin Plateau" slide.
- Continue: "Our Scripture today comes from the Book of Matthew and it is called the Sermon on the Mount. Our object today is the Chorazin Plateau. This is where scholars believe the Sermon on the Mount took place. Many people came to hear Jesus teach. This is one of the places where Jesus taught His followers. Let's learn more!"

EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Display the "Flowers and Birds" poster on a focal wall. Allow children to read a name card and try to identify the flowers and birds on the poster. Read each card for pre-readers.
- Begin: "Do you know that you are more important than all the flowers and birds? There are a lot of flowers and birds, but you are more important. We find this in our Scripture today. Who remembers which book of the Bible we are exploring? That's right, the Book of Matthew. Is Matthew found in the Old or New Testament? The New Testament. It is the first book of the New Testament and it is one of the Gospels. Did you know that a man named Matthew wrote this book? He was a tax collector, so not many people liked him. After Matthew met Jesus, his life changed forever, and he became one of Jesus' closest friends."
- Invite volunteers to read Matthew 5:13-16. Ask: "What two things does Jesus compare us with? He says we are to be like the salt of the earth and to be a light to others. God chose us to tell others about His love. When we show others kindness, love, and obedience, we are sharing God's love."
- Invite another volunteer to read Matthew 6:5-8. Ask: "Where does Jesus tell us we should pray? God doesn't want us to pray to impress other

people. He wants that experience to be between you and Him. It doesn't mean you can't pray in public or even with groups of people. It just means that God wants you to pray with your heart and not just say words. He wants us to talk to Him about things that make us scared, things we worry about, things we care about, and even things we want. Jesus even gives us an example of how to pray. God wants us to talk to Him!"

- Continue telling the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Display the Text Truth.
- Finish: "We are all very precious to God. **Jesus taught His followers how to love and obey God.** God wants us to share God's love with the rest of the world. We need to show others how to love and obey God by showing kindness and loving others. God also wants us to talk to Him daily in prayer. You can do this at bedtime, in the car, or in the shower. God listens no matter where you are."

PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 2 video.
- Ask: "Who was today's special guest? How did Joel's experiments work? What did Jesus teach about how to love and obey God?"

MEMORY VERSE

- Bonus Verse Option: The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse, 1 John 4:9. If your kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to learn an additional weekly Bonus Verse. This week's Bonus Verse is Matthew 5:16.*
- Display "1 John 4:9" on a focal wall. Print or write the Memory Verse using a large, readable font. Type one to two words per page. Scramble the words and attach the paper to a wall.*
- Ask your boys and girls to gather and sit in front of the teaching wall. Give each child a small flashlight. Turn off all the lights. Say the verse in short segments and encourage your kids to repeat it after you. Call out the verse slowly in order and have children find the word with their flashlights. Prepare a second copy of the verse available to show each word to pre-readers. Encourage them to match the words. Repeat the verse as a group at the end of the activity.

PRAYER

- Distribute Family Cards. Encourage girls and boys to talk about the questions on the back of the card with their family this week.
- Conclude: "God loves us very much. He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. We can learn so much from Jesus when we read our Bibles. **Jesus taught His followers how to love and obey God.** He wants us to tell others how precious they are to God, too!"
- Close by praying aloud.

APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: large paper, markers
- Tech Connect (Optional): a device with the LifeWay Kids app

EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and assist girls and boys in finding today's pages, "The Sermon on the Mount."
- Select a volunteer to read about today's object, the "Chorazin Plateau."
- Guide kids to complete the activity, "Let It Shine!"
- Choose another volunteer to read aloud "A Firm Foundation."
- Read or invite another leader to read "You Are the Salt of the Earth."
- Lead kids to finish the "Worry and Me" activity.

REVIEW

- Form groups of three or four kids. Give each group a large piece of paper and markers. Assign each group a part of today's Bible story. Ask each group to draw a scene that represents their portion of the story. When groups have completed the activity, ask each group to tell about their scene to review today's Bible story.
 - ▶ Jesus teaching on the mountain with the crowd.
 - ▶ Being the light of the world.
 - ▶ How to pray.
 - ▶ Birds and flowers.
 - ▶ Wise man and foolish man.

TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Small Group, download the LifeWay Kids app. Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" in the Explore the Bible: Kids section of the app.