

The Sermon on the Mount

Bible Passage: Matthew 5–7

STORY POINT: Jesus taught people how to live in God’s kingdom.

Key Passage: John 14:25-26

Bible Story: Open your Bible to Matthew 5–7. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Sermon on the Mount.”

- This story comes from one of the most famous passages in the Bible. Jesus taught people how to live in God’s kingdom. Jesus cared not only about people’s physical needs, but also about their spiritual needs. The blessings Jesus taught about were very different from the kinds of things the world usually thinks of as blessings. In a way, God’s kingdom is backward from what the world thinks a kingdom should be.

The religious leaders thought that the key to being with God was obeying all the rules. They thought that if they looked very special and holy, they could earn God’s love. Jesus was teaching the opposite. God loves all of us, but we cannot obey perfectly. Even our thoughts are sinful sometimes.

We usually pay attention to what’s on the outside, but Jesus was teaching that what’s on the inside is just as important. God doesn’t want us to do good things to glorify ourselves but to glorify Him. Without God’s help, we could never honor God with our lives. Thankfully, God sent help.

Bible Story Video: Watch Video

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

Christ Connection: Jesus taught people what it means to follow Him. He taught how people should live, how they should treat one another, and how to love God. People who trust in Jesus live to honor God and show what His kingdom is like.

When we have faith in Jesus, we are part of God’s kingdom. That changes everything about us. We begin to look more like Jesus in the way we behave and how we treat others. We love people even when they treat us wrongly, and we care more about God’s glory than our own.

Discussion:

*Why did Jesus say those who mourn are blessed? (because they will be comforted, Matt. 5:4)

*What did Jesus compare believers to? (salt and light, Matt. 5:13-16)

*What did Jesus come to do with the law? (obey it perfectly, not get rid of it; Matt. 5:17)

*What are some ways God's kingdom is different from worldly kingdoms? Guide kids to give examples about how God's kingdom is the opposite of what our hearts naturally desire. In God's kingdom, we love our enemies and consider ourselves blessed even in difficult or sad times. We give generously even to those who cannot repay. We trust in God instead of ourselves, and we do good to glorify God, not to look good in front of others.

*Why does God care so much about what's in our hearts? Help kids understand that sinful actions always begin as sinful thoughts and desires. Remind them that it is not enough to simply avoid doing bad things. Obedience to God means we do not even think evil thoughts. Help them see that we need Jesus because only He can meet God's standard of perfection.

*Where did Jesus' authority to teach come from? Guide kids to think about Jesus' Identity as God the Son. Remind them that He was present at creation and that He is the King of kings. His words are God's own words. His teaching is perfect.