

Read the Word: Matthew 5:17-48

Disciple Your Family: Discuss how we should obey the intent of God's Word in all circumstances.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



Key Truth: Obey God Even When It Is Difficult (Matthew 5:17-30)

APPLY: The Old Testament is God's inspired Word and should be learned, understood, and obeyed.

- *How should we respond to those who say it is not important to learn and obey the Old Testament?*

APPLY: Don't let anger spill over into hurtful words or actions. Be quick to forgive.

- *Why do you think Jesus went beyond outward action to address inward attitudes of the heart? (Ultimately, our actions flow from our heart motivation; God is concerned with the condition of our hearts; etc.)*

APPLY: Don't look at others with lustful desire.

- *There is a difference between appreciating beauty and lusting. How would you explain the difference? (The difference between a quick acknowledgment and a lingering look, filled with desire.)*
- *How can a Christian manage his or her sexual desire so that it doesn't become destructive?*



Key Truth: Show Integrity Even When It Is Inconvenient (Matthew 5:31-37)

APPLY: Live with integrity, honoring and obeying the intent of God's Word. Do not look for excuses or loopholes to release you from obeying God.

- *How does Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce apply today?*
- *What excuses or loopholes do people use today seeking to get around the intent of God's Word?*

APPLY: Keep your promises even when it will cost you.

- *Why is it important for Christians to be intentional about telling the truth? How might our witness be damaged if we're not known for being truthful or honoring our commitments?*
- *Does telling the truth involve absolute transparency? Explain.*



Key Truth: Love People Even When They Take Advantage of You (Matthew 5:38-48)

APPLY: Follow Christ's example by going the extra mile to keep the peace, rather than escalating the situation by retaliating.

- *What does it look like to go the extra mile to keep the peace, rather than escalating the situation by retaliating?*
- *How would our world be different if people lived by Jesus' teaching regarding retaliation?*

APPLY: Keep growing in spiritual maturity by loving friends and enemies alike.

- *Jesus set an example of loving all people, including those who opposed Him. How is that different from what comes natural to us?*
- *Share examples of real-life situations where you saw people loving their enemies. What type of impact did that make?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- What did Jesus come to do for the Law (the Ten Commandments)?
- Why does Jesus want His followers to go beyond just obeying what the Ten Commandments say?
- What are some actions you can take to help you view things with a godly perspective?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **Matthew 6:33**



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

Jesus began the Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes, eight statements of blessing based on the attitudes valued in God's kingdom.

Everyday Extras:

Cut out hearts from construction paper and copy paper. Write different "heart rules" on the hearts. Some examples include Forgive others, Be honest, Love your enemies, Pray for someone who hurt you, Don't stay angry, Choose joy, Do more than expected. Let family members decorate the hearts and display them around your house to remind everyone to live and love like Jesus.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned **The Bible Teaches Me** the meek are blessed (Matthew 5:5). Meek people are gentle with their words and actions, care about others the way God does, and don't brag about themselves. God's blessings aren't always things like money or gifts but include the good feeling of helping and showing kindness to others.