

The **Sermon** *on the* **Mount**

**A Journey Through
The Book of Matthew**



NOVEMBER 2019

Crossroads Christian Church



Start here.

Hello friend! Thank you so much for picking up this resource! This begins our third month of walking through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5 through 7) on the weekends and the rest of the book of Matthew on weekdays. Our hope is that you have come to see Jesus in new ways through this journey. If this is your first time to pick up and use one of these guides, it's a great time to get jump in!

In the previous two guides, we've provided some ways for you to engage with the scripture reading for each day. After reading the passage, we've given you some simple ways to reflect on what you have just read, an idea for how you might respond in obedience, and some thoughts on how you might pray and grow in your relationship with Jesus based on what you have read. Read, Reflect, Respond, Relationship - it's a pretty simple framework that you can use anytime you read the Bible.

Over the coming five weeks, we're going to begin to remove the training wheels and allow you to pedal on your own. In week one, we'll guide you through each passage, as we have the past few months. In weeks two and three, we'll help some, but allow you to take more ownership in discovering what is said, considering how to obey, and growing in your relationship with God through prayer. In the last two weeks, you are released to do the same thing on your own.

One of the goals for this series is for us to develop some new habits. When we wrap up our study of the Sermon on the Mount, you can continue to study the Bible by choosing a passage and then use simple questions to discovery what a says and how you can obey it. This is a lifelong journey!

Here's a simple overview of each part of your daily time with Jesus:

.....

>>**READ** - Each day you will be reading from the Gospel of Matthew. Find a quiet place where there aren't many distractions and focus on listening to God through what you read.

.....

>>**REFLECT** - After you read through the passage, take a few minutes and think about what you just read. Ask God to help you hear his voice clearly. Ask simple questions - What do I like or find challenging? What does this say about God, about humanity, about me? Write down your reflections.

.....

>>**RESPOND** - This is the time to obey God and follow Jesus' example. Ask God to give you the courage to immediately put into practice that which you have learned.

.....

>>**RELATIONSHIP** - God is our Heavenly Father who wants to hear from you. We can do this through prayer, as we talk and listen to God. But he also wants us to share what we have learned with others. This part of your experience is about talking with God and with others.

.....

>>**REAL LIFE** - Most weekends, you'll hear from a real-life friend from the Crossroads family. They are people just like you, learning to listen to and obey Jesus. We are on this journey together!



>> **READ** Matthew 18:21-35

.....

>> **REFLECT** - What have been some of your most important experiences with forgiveness, either as a giver or a receiver...or as one who struggles to forgive?

>> **RESPOND** - It's been said that no person can offend you to the extent that you have offended God by your own sin. Write down any words or phrases that come to mind as you think about all that God has forgiven in your life.



>> **READ** Matthew 19:1-12

.....
>> **REFLECT** - Based on this passage, what is God's ideal for the marriage relationship? How would you describe our culture in comparison to this ideal?

>> **RESPOND** - When asked why Moses permitted divorce, Jesus said that it was not God's original design, but a concession due to our hardness of heart. When a couple moves toward divorce, it is often because of anger or hopelessness, or a combination of both. All close relationships have a way of revealing where our hearts are hard. How have you experienced this?

Wednesday

October 30

>> **READ** Matthew 19:13-30

.....

>> **REFLECT** - Read through the passage one more time. This time write down any words or phrases that stand out to you. Why did these words catch your attention?

>> **RESPOND** - This man comes to Jesus for a one-on-one conversation and it seems like he wants to be “all in” in his pursuit of eternal life. For him, following Jesus meant leaving behind the riches that had taken up a lot of space in his life. Can you relate to this man’s struggle in any way?



>> **READ** Matthew 20:1-16

.....

>> **REFLECT** - Put yourself in the place of those who worked all day. How would you feel about the landowner's decision? Now put yourself in the place of those who worked just one hour. How does that feel? Which group do you relate to the most?

>> **RESPOND** - Extravagant love doesn't really make much sense. The landowner didn't get much out of the bargain, especially as the day went on. He paid the laborers based on his generosity, not based on what they had done. Make a list of the ways you have experienced God's generosity just in the past week.

Weekend

November 2/3

>> **READ** Matthew 6:25-34

>> **REAL LIFE**

By Andrea Croslyn

What a beautiful passage - a story of God's infinite love and of rest from worry. So why is it so hard to live life without worrying? Jesus gets at the root of the issue in verse 30, "Why do you have so little faith?" Faith is our own trust and reliance in the Lord. He will care for us, but our responsibility is to trust, and to be busy obeying. This also means praying for discernment about when to wait upon the Lord, and when to move. But worrying should not be part of the equation.

The world glorifies relying only on ourselves. However, we are called to put our trust in the only One who really knows us, has a full perspective of everything that will happen across all space and time, and can use that to make a perfect plan for our lives. His plan is one that we could never design, even with all of our sweating and devising and worrying.

I recently stepped out in faith to start my own business. If you had asked me even five years ago if I would ever do this, the answer would have been, "No way!" But there were some really good reasons for me to move in this direction, including better care for my family, and protecting more time in my life to volunteer for the causes that matter to me. I felt God moving me in this very scary direction. I wanted to have everything carefully planned first (before I quit my other job), but I felt Him saying, "Trust me to show you how I can care for you so much better than you can plan for yourself." I took that leap of faith, and I know it was the right thing. It doesn't mean I won't have some hard things to walk through, but I know even when I do, He will use it to shape me into something that looks more and more like Jesus. I'm still not perfect at not worrying, but I'm getting better at giving those things to Him every day.

>> RESPOND - What is one thing you can do to seek God's kingdom and his righteousness when you are otherwise tempted to worry? Be specific.

>> RELATIONSHIP - Take a sheet of paper and write down your worries, cares and concerns. Fold it and put it someplace where it won't get lost. Set a reminder on your calendar to come back and look at it exactly two weeks from today. Return to this page and write down any reflections.



Tuesday

November 5

>> **READ** Matthew 21:23-32

.....
>> **REFLECT** - Today's passage shows the hardness of heart of the religious leaders. They simply were not open to a change of mind and of heart. While you may not be opposed to Jesus in this way, is there any area of your life where you have been resisting Him? Have you heard from him in some area, but not yet followed through with obedience?

>> **RESPOND**

>> **RELATIONSHIP**



Wednesday

November 6

>> **READ** Matthew 21:33-46

>> **REFLECT**

>> **RESPOND**

>> **RELATIONSHIP** - In the parable, the landowner is looking for people who will say "Yes!" to him and live fruitful lives. Take some time today to pray for our community. Pray that God will raise up many fruitful laborers who will partner with him to bring about a great harvest in our neighborhoods, our schools, our places of work...permeating and influencing every part of our community.



Thursday

November 7

>> **READ** Matthew 22:1-14

.....
>> **REFLECT** - What do you like about this passage?
What do you find challenging or difficult to understand?

>> **RESPOND**

>> **RELATIONSHIP**



>> **READ** Matthew 22:15-33

.....

>> **REFLECT**

>> **RESPOND** - In this passage, each time Jesus answered his critics, the crowd was amazed at his wisdom. Write down an area of your where you need wisdom. James, Jesus' brother, tells us that if we need wisdom and ask for it, God will give it to us (James 1:5). Turn to the last page of this journal and make a note to look back at this page on November 29. Record any way that God has given you the wisdom you asked for.

>> **RELATIONSHIP**

Weekend

November 9/10

>> **READ** Matthew 7:1-6

>> **REAL LIFE**

By Ross and Raychel Geiser

On August 4, 2018 we said yes to a lifelong commitment to each other surrounded by people who had cheered us on through the fun and challenging parts of dating. It was also in this season that so many others who had lived the married life longer than us shared their experiences so that we could learn from them; don't forget to put the toilet seat down, the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, etc.

We use these somewhat humorous examples because, although they are funny, we didn't realize how challenging some of these very simple things would be. Quickly we found ourselves butting heads and judging the simplest of things the other one did. Never would we have imagined judging each other over things like how one should take a drink or leaving the fridge wide open and walking away (welcome to real life lol).

As you look through the beginning of Matthew 7, Jesus is challenging those He is teaching to search their own hearts first before quickly judging someone else. We learned rather quickly how easy it was to judge the little things the other one did without putting our pride aside to see where we were at fault. Verse 3 says, "Why worry about the speck in your friend's eye, when you have a log in your own?" It is so easy for us in our daily life to judge those around us and almost not even notice that we are doing it. We can focus so much on what we think others should be doing or how they should be doing it, that we don't pay any attention to what we should be doing ourselves. Friends, this is dangerous ground to walk on, especially as followers of Christ.

As an imperfect couple, we are still learning daily what it looks like to focus on how we can grow before forcing change on

the other person. Jesus reminds us in these verses to get rid of the speck, or things in our life that are hindering us from a deeper relationship with Christ, before we try and tell someone else what they need to get rid of. This theme of judgment has many words tacked on behind it. Our judgment of others does not come without selfishness, pride, arrogance, ignorance, and deceit. I believe we all need this daily reminder to walk in humility as it is only because of God's grace we are made aware of our sin. Only in this can we truly be the body of Christ, fully united for God's purpose to bring Him glory.

.....

ABOUT ROSS AND RAYCHEL GEISER

These two lovebirds, Ross and Raychel Geiser, have been married for a little over a year and are the happy dog parents of Piper and PJ. As our Crossroads West Campus Family Ministries Director, Ross, and his wife Raychel, are both F.J. Reitz High School graduates. They consider themselves blessed to be able to invest back into the west-side community of Evansville, that God has used to grow them over the years. Ross and Raychel especially enjoy serving on the worship team, hanging out with middle school and high school students, and watching The Office.



.....

>> REFLECT - Why do you think we are so prone to be judgmental toward others? Have you ever caught yourself trying to make yourself appear better by judging others?

>> RESPOND - Jesus is not teaching that we should universally accept every lifestyle and every idea. But there are ways we can go against Jesus' teaching here. Read the lines below and put a check mark beside anything that trips you up. Come back to this list at the end of each day and do some self-evaluation.

Have I thought the worst of others?

Do I only speak of someone's faults?

Have I judged someone's life by their worst moments?

Do I judge the hidden motives of others?

Have I judged others without being mindful that I will also be judged?

>> RELATIONSHIP - Take some time and confess to God any sin in this area. If you have harshly judged someone, ask God to show you if you need to do any repair work on that relationship.



Monday

November 11

>> **READ** Matthew 22:34-46



>> **REFLECT**

>> **RESPOND** - Take some time right now to commit verses 37 and 38 to memory. Ask God to create a clear opportunity for you to share it with someone.

>> **RELATIONSHIP**



Tuesday

November 12

>> **READ** Matthew 23:1-21

>> **REFLECT**

>> **RESPOND** - Jesus, in describing the religious leaders, points out a number of ways that those in positions of influence can get things wrong. Who are some of the spiritual leaders in your life? Take some time and write their names below. Pray for them, that God would protect them from selfishness and hypocrisy. Bonus: send a note or a text of encouragement and prayer to one of people on your list.

>> **RELATIONSHIP**



Wednesday

November 13

>> **READ** Matthew 23:22-39

>> **REFLECT**

>> **RESPOND**

>> **RELATIONSHIP** - This is a definitely a hard passage! Based on Jesus' words, do some soul searching. Ask God to show you any way that you have focused on small things, but neglected more important things.



Thursday

November 14

>> READ Matthew 24:1-35

>> REFLECT - This is one of the most challenging chapters in all of the Bible! In verse 3, the disciples ask Jesus two questions: 1. When will this (the destruction of the temple) happen? 2. What will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age? Today's passage deals mainly with the first question. History tells us that the things Jesus predicted happened before the Romans destroyed the temple in Jerusalem. What is your response to the fact that God holds history in his hands?

>>RESPOND

>>RELATIONSHIP



>> **READ** Matthew 24:36-51

.....

>> **REFLECT**

>> **RESPOND** - The key to this passage is verse 44. For Christians, this is not a scary thought! In fact, we're told in 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 that when Jesus returns, we will be with him forever. "Therefore, comfort one another with these words." Write "Therefore, keep watch" from verse 42 on a note card and put it somewhere where you will see it often. Each time you see it, ask God to help you live today with your eternal future in mind.

>> **RELATIONSHIP**

Weekend

November 16/17

>> **READ** Matthew 7:7-12

>> **REAL LIFE**

By Deedra Everett

It was Christmas 2007; my oldest son, Parker, was 8 and loved to read. It was the first year that he did not get one toy from his family. Every gift unwrapped was a book of some sort. Though he didn't ask for anything in particular, I remember the unspoken disappointment I could see on his face and the heartbreak I felt for him each time the wrapping paper couldn't hide the gift inside. He never complained, but he definitely didn't like reading much after that.

It was Christmas 2009; my youngest son, Martin, was 9. The only thing on his Christmas list was a drum set. The only thing. How could we not make that happen? Against my husband's better judgment, on Christmas morning that shiny new drum set was set up in the living room waiting for him to wake the whole neighborhood. The fascination lasted maybe six months and the drums sat untouched in the basement until he gave them away years later.

In Matthew 7:7-12, Jesus tells us that the Father who created us and loves us, desires to give good gifts to those who ask. Jesus isn't saying that we will get everything we pray for; He knows that shiny red drum set will be a passing phase. Conversely, if we don't ask, we wind up disappointed. We need to ask and seek and knock - repeatedly. At some point, we may even need to step back and look at the motives of our prayers. Are they self-serving or Kingdom building? Are our prayers in line with His purposes? Do we pray expecting God to answer or doubt He even hears us?

What if God is silent or doesn't answer the way we wanted? Does that mean we are to stop asking? I don't believe so. He's

saying "trust me - I will give you good gifts. Your perfect Father knows what you need. Seek me, not the answer to your prayers. Spend time with me and know me - know my heart - so that you will know what to ask. Knock on the door to get to me. Do you want to find me? Keep knocking. I'm here." Prayer builds faith.

"For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Is a promise of Jesus! This isn't about bargaining or wearing God down until He changes his mind. God knows what we need without us ever asking. This is an invitation to join Him in something bigger than ourselves. Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Matt 6:33), and pray expecting God to answer!

.....

ABOUT DEEDRA EVERETT

Deedra is a wife, mom of 4 grown children, Gigi to 3 little ones and has been blessed by the many international students that have let her be their American Mom. She's been part of the Crossroads family for almost 30 years, loves Jesus, loves people and is a huge fan of coffee and Middle Eastern food!



.....

>> REFLECT - What are some of the best Christmas or birthday presents you have ever received?



Monday

November 18

>> **READ** Matthew 25:1-30



>> **REFLECT**



>> **RESPOND**



>> **RELATIONSHIP**



>> **READ** Matthew 25:31-46

.....

>> **REFLECT**

.....

>> **RESPOND**

.....

>> **RELATIONSHIP**

.....



Wednesday

November 20

>> **READ** Matthew 26:1-16

.....

>> **REFLECT**

.....

>> **RESPOND**

.....

>> **RELATIONSHIP**



>> **READ** Matthew 26:17-35



>> **REFLECT**



>> **RESPOND**



>> **RELATIONSHIP**



>> **READ** Matthew 26:36-56

.....

>> **REFLECT**

.....

>> **RESPOND**

.....

>> **RELATIONSHIP**

Weekend

November 23/24

>> **READ** Matthew 7:13-29

>> **REAL LIFE**

By Adrienne Gregurich

There's an old commercial that I remember about a boy riding in the backseat of a car, petting his dog and talking to his parents in the front. The car was quiet, they were talking in low, relaxed voices, and the lights were on, like it was night outside. But as the shot panned back, the viewer sees that it's storming, and they're driving through torrential rain. I don't remember the model of the car, but they were selling the idea that you could trust the its maker. The family's relaxed attitudes while the storm was raging a few inches away always stuck with me.

To be honest, whenever I read Matthew 7:24-27, I kind of skim over it. It's a popular passage, and I thought I had the idea - obey Jesus' teachings (follow the rules) and he'll get you through the storms.

But, as I've been going on this journey through the Sermon on the Mount, it struck me that this familiar passage is actually Jesus' closing statement to his most popular sermon. And what have we been learning about this sermon? That it's not about the law, it's about the heart while obeying the law. So, when Jesus is saying, "Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice..." he's talking about obedience from the heart. Acting in agreement with his teachings. Abiding.

Jesus tells us in John 4 that if we abide in his love, his joy will be in us and our joy will be full.

It seems impossible to feel joyful all the time, but this isn't my joy. It's from the Lord. You've probably heard "The joy of the Lord is our strength." In the Old Testament where this phrase is

used, the Hebrew word for strength meant “a place or means of safety, protection refuge, or stronghold.” And this brings us back around full circle to the house on the rock.

I want to be like the boy in the car. Whatever storms are raging outside - bad test results, losing a loved one, divorce, loss of a job or finances, I’m abiding in the Father. Relying on the Maker to keep driving me through the storm, and out of obedience, I rest in a joy and strength that only comes from Him. For He is my fortress, my protection, my refuge.

.....

ABOUT ADRIENNE GREGURICH

Adrienne is part of the Online Ministries team at Crossroads. She’s married to Andy, who is also on staff, and they have a 2-year old, Amos. When Adrienne isn’t combing social media for inspiration, you can find her at Cmoie or the zoo with Amos.



.....

>> REFLECT - In this passage, Jesus makes a number of comparisons. There are two kinds of gates, prophets, followers and builders. Do all these comparisons have anything in common? What separates the two categories?



Monday

November 25

>> **READ** Matthew 26:57-27:26



>> **REFLECT**



>> **RESPOND**



>> **RELATIONSHIP**



Tuesday

November 26

>> **READ** Matthew 27:27-44



>> **REFLECT**



>> **RESPOND**



>> **RELATIONSHIP**



Wednesday

November 27

>> **READ** Matthew 27:45-66

.....

>> **REFLECT**

.....

>> **RESPOND**

.....

>> **RELATIONSHIP**



Thursday

November 28

>> **READ** Matthew 28:1-15



>> **REFLECT**



>> **RESPOND**



>> **RELATIONSHIP**



Friday

November 29

>> **READ** Matthew 28:16-20

>> **REFLECT**

>> **RESPOND**

>> **RELATIONSHIP**



A Journey Through The Book of Matthew



NOVEMBER 2019

cccgo.com/series