



# The Upside Down: Sermon on the Mount

## Sept 9 & 10, 2017 – John Ortberg

*Note to Leaders: Every small group is different, so we are providing a summary study with additional discussion questions in the Going Deeper section. Please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group.*

**Follow up from last week:** Last week we talked about being more open to God's call and its implications – what experiences with hearing God did you have this week?

## Connect

1. When an event is described as “the greatest”, what expectations do you have?
-  2. The Sermon on the Mount is the most famous, most studied talk, ever. As our church begins to dive deep into learning and applying it, which parts are you looking forward to understanding better?

## Engage

Read Matthew 5: 1 – 7:29 aloud (See Going Deeper-Engage for suggestion on how to do this with the group)

- What new impressions of Jesus do you have from this experience?
- In what ways did hearing the whole sermon change your perception of its teaching as a whole?
- What questions came to mind from what you heard?

## Apply

1. How closely do you live according to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount?
2. Where do feel you fall short the most?
-  3. How can we pray for you in the coming weeks as you seek to understand and be obedient to Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount?

## Pray

Read together the Beatitudes – Matthew 5:3-12 – looking around at the group and praying inwardly that each might know the reality of Jesus' blessings.



# Going Deeper

## Engage

The NIV translation of the Bible breaks the 107-verse Sermon on the Mount into 20 sections as follows in the Gospel of Matthew:

5:3-12	5:27-30	5:43-48	6:19-24	7:13-14
5:13-16	5:31-32	6:1-4	6:25-34	7:15-20
5:17-20	5:33-37	6:5-15	7:1-6	7:21-23
5:21-26	5:38-42	6:16-18	7:7-12	7:24-27

Additionally, Matthew 5:1-2 sets the context for Jesus' talk, and Matthew 7:28-29 summarizes the crowd's reactions.

- Divide the sections up amongst the group members.
- Wait a few minutes so each can read and re-read their passage(s) multiple times to themselves so they can verbalize it clearly for the group
- Read in turn through the whole Sermon on the Mount
- Allow a few minutes for quiet personal reflection before discussing

## Apply

How might you approach this series to better allow God to transform you to live more like Jesus? Write down your ideas and your commitment. Share with a friend.

## Learning Opportunity

1. Plan to read the Sermon on the Mount multiple times in your daily studies and in parallel with our upcoming sermons. This will help to deepen your understanding so that you can better live out Jesus' teaching. Try reading different Bible versions as well.
2. Allow scripture to be your primary source of study for the Sermon on the Mount. Two other sources that you can use to supplement your understanding include:
  - a. *The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard
  - b. *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

## Serving Opportunity

As our church and others around the world continue to pray for those impacted by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, consider what else you may be able to do to help, whether donating blood, sending supplies, going to assist, or giving financially. Donations given through Menlo Church (<http://menlo.church/give>) will be sent to WorldVision.

## Personal Spiritual Practice

Keep a journal (paper or electronic) of your reflections on what you read in the Bible. You will find your insights are deeper, your remembrance better and your follow-through more meaningful.

Consider using your journal when you hear the sermon by jotting down strong impressions for later follow-up.

Bring your journal to Life Group to share when appropriate and add reflections.

This resource and additional sermon study guides are available at [menlo.church](http://menlo.church). Send



questions to [info@menlo.church](mailto:info@menlo.church)

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