

THE WAY OF JESUS

Part 2

**A STUDY THROUGH THE
SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

LEADER'S GUIDE 2026

THE SERIES

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

may be the most central teaching on how to live out the way of Jesus. As we will be preaching through sections of Matthew 5-7 at the start of 2026, we want to invite all our community groups (CG's) to explore this section of Scripture.

THE ASK

FOR EACH COMMUNITY GROUP

to complete the Sermon on the Mount study guide at some point during the year (Part 1 in 2025 & Part 2 in 2026).

This allows us as a church to connect our Sunday morning preaching to our CG ministry while we are being formed together in the Way of Jesus.



AS YOU PREPARE TO LEAD

AS WE MATURE AS DISCIPLES, WE WANT TO GROW DEEPER IN ALLOWING SCRIPTURE TO FORM US.

- Ask your group to read the text in advance but do not give them the questions. There is something powerful when we wrestle with the text and allow God's Spirit to speak through His Word.
- As you prepare, spend time reading over the text yourself, praying for wisdom and noting the main focus of the text.
- Your role as a leader isn't to have all the answers. It is to guide people to apply God's Word in their lives through Scripture. Ask your group how they can apply what they are learning and follow it up when you meet again.

RESOURCES

For a quick overview of the Sermon on the Mount, [click here](#) to check out this 5-minute video. If you need a simple resource on how to lead Scripture focused/inductive studies, [click here](#). I highly recommend the inductive method as it allows your group to wrestle with the text.

A SUGGESTED FLOW FOR EACH WEEK

PLEASE ADJUST ACCORDINGLY

- **Icebreaker:** Either ask everyone to share one thing from their week or ask an icebreaker question.
- **Warm-up question:** What stood out to you from the sermon?
- **Introduction to studying the Scripture:** Get people excited to study God's Word. Share with them the power of looking at Scripture ourselves and wrestling with the text.
- **Text:** Read out loud
- **Silent study:** 5-10 minutes. Have people note their observations and questions.
- **Share together as a group** (everyone shares their questions and observations). Have everyone first share their questions and observations with the group before you start to answer them.
- **What are the common questions that come up?** Begin to wrestle through those together (feel free to send people into small groups to discuss further before coming back and sharing with the group).
- **Resources to go to if you need answers:**
 - IVP New Testament Commentary Series. [Click here.](#)
 - Below are some additional questions for your group. Feel free to add these into the questions the group can discuss.
- **Application:** Always push toward application of God's Word. We want people leaving not knowing more but knowing how this will change the way they live this week.

SALT & LIGHT

MATTHEW

5:13-16

- **Review the beatitudes (5:3-10)** which are best understood as the values of the kingdom. What do they teach us about the way of Jesus?
- **Read v16.** This is the key verse for this section. **What** does this tell us about how we witness as the people of God? How is it connected to the Beatitudes?
- If the primary use of salt in the ancient world was to preserve food, how does this example help us understand how we bear witness to Christ?
- If the primary use of light is to cut out the darkness, how does this example help us understand how we bear witness to Christ?
- **Re-read v16.** How can your community group bear witness to the gospel of Christ as salt and light in the world? How can your group embrace the counter-cultural way of Jesus? What is one practical way you can live this out?

FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW

MATTHEW

5:17-20

- **Note:** The phrase the Law and the Prophets is a synonym for all of the Old Testament (see Matt 22:40; Luke 16:16, Acts 13:15).
- **How** would you explain the connection between the Old & New Testament to a non-Christian? Why do many people struggle to understand and accept the teachings of the Old Testament? How does v18 challenge our understanding?
- **Read 5:17 & 7:12.** Both use the phrase “the Law and/or the Prophets.” This is an inclusio, meaning that everything in between pertains to the Law & the Prophets (i.e. the entire Old Testament). How are we supposed to understand the Old Testament in light of this (see Rom 10:4)?
- **How** does v19 connect the Law and the Prophets with the Kingdom of God?
- **Jesus fulfills** the requirements of the Old Testament & it is through faith that we obtain His righteousness (read Romans 3:21-24). What does Matt 5:20 teach us about the nature of salvation and how we enter into God’s Kingdom?



OATHS

MATTHEW

5:33-37

(PLUS 31-32)

- **The phrase** you have heard it said (v21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43) marks out six sections of teachings from the Old Testament or Jewish traditions. How does this section connect with the previous section (Matt 5:17-20 – Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament)?
- **What** is the main problem outlined in this text (see Matt 23:16-20)?
- **What** is the principle that we can derive from v 36?
- **Verse 37** points to the principle of truthfulness. If we need to swear by something to prove our trustworthiness, what does that say about our character?
- **When do you:**
 - Struggle to tell the truth?
 - Embellish or exaggerate?
 - Remain silent instead of correcting a false statement?
- **Why** do you think you struggle in these ways? Spend time reflecting on your own and then pair up with someone and share & **pray together**.



WORRY & THE KINGDOM

MATTHEW
6:25-34

- **What causes you to worry?**
- **Read** through the examples given in v25-30. What do they teach us?
- **Verse 32** teaches us not to function like the pagans who don't believe in God. Why is this such a natural temptation for us to fall into?
- **Go back and read (6:9-13).** How does v33-34 (and the whole passage) connect with the Lord's Prayer? (we worship, then seek his kingdom, and then come before him for our daily needs in this order)
- **When** we seek first his kingdom & righteousness, our worries consume us less because we are focused on his kingdom. How can this wisdom allow you to live differently this week? How does v34 help us focus on the here and now?



JUDGING OTHERS

MATTHEW

7:1-6

- **Read v1.** “Do not judge” can be translated “do not adopt a critical spirit.” How does that help us understand this verse?
- **Where** in your life do you see people easily adopt a critical spirit? Where do you struggle with a critical spirit?
- **Read 2 Sam 12:1-7.** How does that story connect with v3-5?
- **What** is v3-5 calling us to do?
- Knowing that the Golden Rule (see v12) is influencing this passage, how does this change the way we approach conflict?
- If v1-5 challenges us to not be judgmental, v6 challenges us to be discerning. How do these two points work together to create a healthy balance (keep in mind the Golden Rule in v12)?



WEEK 6

ASK, SEEK & KNOCK

MATTHEW
7:7-12



- **When you pray**, what do you most often pray about? Take time to write down 5-10 things that come to mind and then share with your group.
- **Read v7-8.** What attitude would best sum up how we should pray? (persistence)
- **Read v9-11.** What does this teach us about God's heart toward us?
- **Read 5:17 & 7:12.** Both use the phrase "the Law and/or the Prophets." This is an inclusio meaning that everything in between pertains to the Law & the Prophets (i.e. the entire Old Testament). Read Matt 22:36-40. How do these two verses connect?
- **Challenge:** how often are you praying persistently (v7-8) & expectantly (v11) that God will reshape you in light of the values of the kingdom (the Beatitudes) and the Sermon on the Mount? How would this level of persistence in prayer change the way you live?

THE TWO GATES/ THE TWO DISCIPLES

MATTHEW
7:13-14; 21-23

- As we move into the final section, we are challenged to make a definitive choice. There are two paths (13-14), two trees (15-20), two claims (21-23) & two houses (24-27).
- **Freedom** is a good thing but it can also be one of the strongest cultural idols of our day. How can too much freedom hinder our walk with Jesus?
- **Read v13-14.** What do these verses teach us about the nature of the kingdom of God?
- **How** does the narrow way of Jesus (which seems restrictive) actually lead to greater freedom & flourishing?
- **Read 21-23.** This passage serves as a warning. How do people deceive themselves into thinking they are following Jesus? How do people do that today?
- **What** is the key distinctive of a true disciple? (see v21)
- **Spend some time in personal reflection.** What does it mean for you to do the will of your Father (how is God's Spirit specifically leading you)? Share with the group & pray for each other.



THE TWO TEACHERS

MATTHEW
7:15-20

- **A false prophet** is often a leader within the Christian community. What are examples of false prophets today? And what is appealing about their message?
- **Read** through the passage. How does the passage instruct us to discern a false prophet? (note the word that is repeated the most in this passage)
- **Read** through these other passages in the New Testament about fruit (Matt 3:8-10; Matt 12:33; Matt 21:43; John 15:1-8; Rom 7:4-6; Gal 5:19-23). What does this teach us about the connection between fruit & the Christian faith?
- In our modern society, how do we recognize false prophets by their fruit? How does the Sermon on the Mount help us be discerning about false prophets?
- **How** are you bearing good fruit in keeping with repentance (see Matt 3:8)? Reflect on this question & spend time praying together.



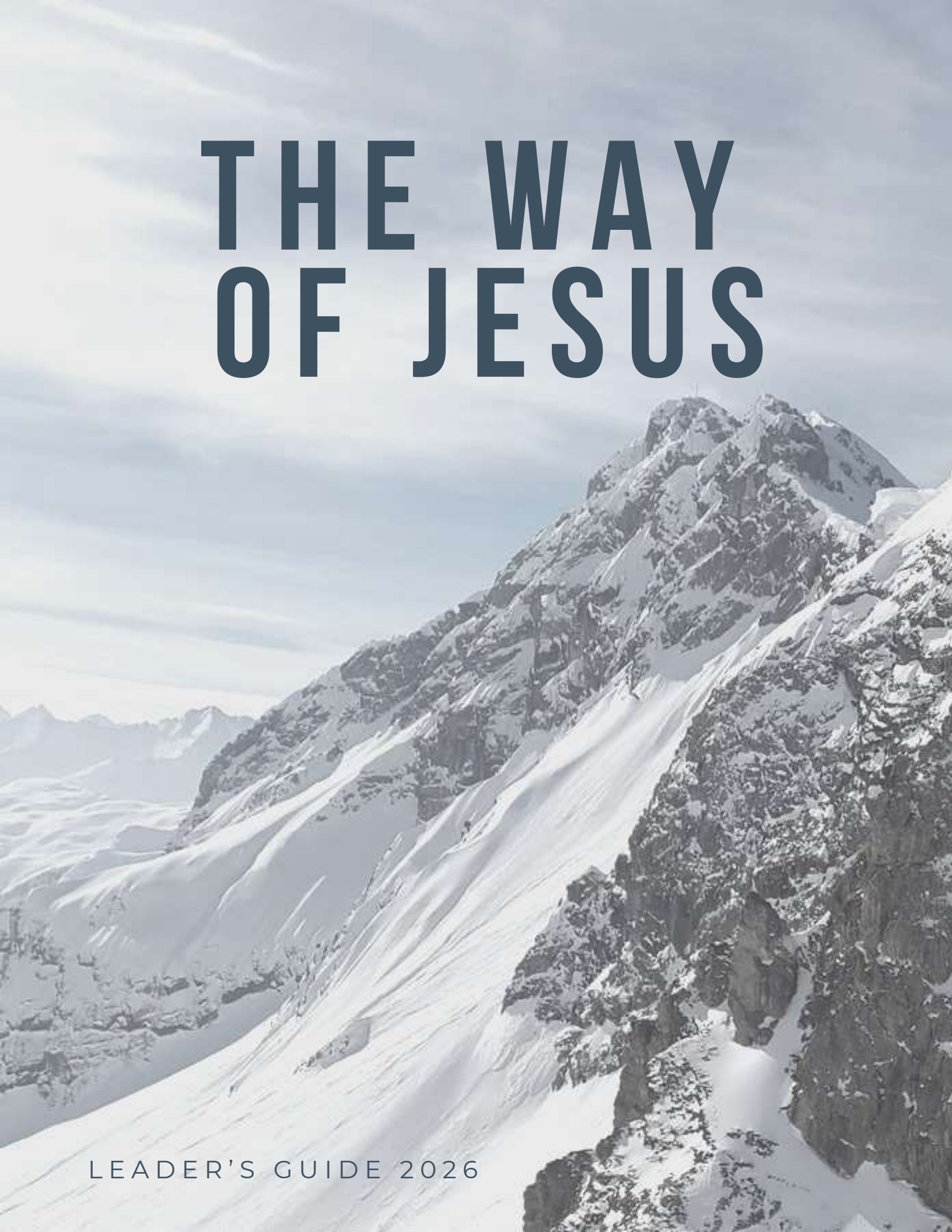
THE TWO HOUSES

MATTHEW
7:24-29

- **Look** back through the final section of the Sermon on the Mount (7:13-27).
- **Make a note** of how each section has a warning followed by a consequence.
- **Read v24-27.** Spend time on your own noting what are the common threads and differences? What is the significance of this passage? Come back and share what you are seeing with your Community Group.
- **Why** does the passage stress putting them (the words of Jesus) into practice rather than hearing the words of Jesus?
- **Read v28-29.** What is the significance of the authority of Jesus?
- **The end of the Sermon on the Mount** is a call to obedience. Where in your life are you struggling to not just hear but obey the words of Jesus (look over the entire sermon)? Share your response with the group & pray for each other.



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