

WITNESS – Reaching out to others
(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)

Giving Thanks to God

What does it mean to you that God is your Father? What characteristics of God are you particularly thankful for? Thank God.

Praying for one another

Share what you believe God would have you do for you to be more Godly and then pray for the person on your right.

Praying for our community

How would Hungerford be different if everyone had a Godly character? Pray for our community to be more Godly.

MATTHEW

Matthew 5.1- 6.18

The Law of the King

Purpose: To learn how the law of Jesus reaches into our hearts and requires total obedience.

WELCOME – Breaking the ice
(Aim for 10 minutes)

Have you ever had a job or a task in which you did not know what was expected of you? How would a job description have helped?

WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord
(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)

THE EXAMEN

1. **Become aware of God's presence** - take some time to remember that God is present with us in our everyday lives. He has been near to you and with you throughout the events of your day. Invite the Holy Spirit.
2. **Review the day with gratitude** - what are you thankful for? How has God been at work? Where was He in conversation, in the actions of others, in the events of the day, in nature? Was He speaking?
3. **Pay attention to your emotions** - St. Ignatius emphasised how our emotions can point to the presence of God. Reflect upon how you felt throughout your day. What might God be saying to you through these emotions?
4. **Choose one thing from the day and pray for it**

WORD – Applying the truth

(Aim for 40 – 45 minutes)

C. S. Lewis was once criticized for not caring for the Sermon on the Mount. He replied, “As to ‘caring for’ the Sermon on the Mount, if ‘caring for’ here means ‘liking’ or enjoying, I suppose no one ‘cares for’ it. Who can *like* being knocked flat on his face by a sledge hammer? I can hardly imagine a more deadly spiritual condition than that of a man who can read that passage with tranquil pleasure.” [*God in the Dock* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1970), pp. 181–82.]

Lewis was right. Studying the Sermon on the Mount can be a devastating experience. It exposes the depth of our sin and the shallowness of our commitment. But the pain it inflicts is meant to heal not destroy us. In fact, the Sermon on the Mount could be called the Christian's job description. It is the most complete summary we have of Jesus' ethical expectations for his followers. Throughout church history it has been a helpful guide and a convicting challenge.

1. Read Matthew 5. The beatitudes describe the qualities Jesus desires in each of his disciples (vv. 3–12). Give a brief definition of each quality.
2. Jesus compares his followers to salt and light (vv. 13–16). What do these metaphors suggest about our role in society?
3. How does Jesus' teaching on murder and adultery (vv. 21–30) differ from the traditional understanding?

4. In verses 31–37 Jesus provides instructions on divorce and oaths (legal relationships). How does his teaching confront tradition?
5. How does Jesus want us to respond to evil people and our enemies (vv. 38–47)?
6. Verse 48 summarizes the essence of what Jesus has been saying. How does this verse challenge spiritual complacency?
7. Read Matthew 6:1–18. What do we learn about proper and improper motives from Jesus' examples about giving, praying and fasting?
8. Why are our motives just as important as our religious acts?
9. What is your impression of Jesus after studying the first half of his sermon?

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