**PATHWAYS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

**LESSON PLAN for THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW – Chapter 5**

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**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

**Matthew 5 presents a radical vision of life in the Kingdom of God. It calls believers not only to adhere to external commandments but to seek an internal transformation that reflects the love, mercy, and perfection of God. Jesus, through this sermon, encourages His followers to be influential presences in the world, spreading God's love, and working towards righteousness in their daily lives.**

**MAJOR THEMES Of Matthew Chapter 5**

1. [**The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)**](https://biblehub.com/topical/t/the_beatitudes.htm)  
   The Beatitudes describe the attitudes and characteristics of those who are blessed in the kingdom of heaven. Each statement begins with "Blessed are," indicating a state of spiritual well-being and prosperity. The Greek word *(makarioi*) is used for "blessed," implying a deep, abiding joy and favor from God.  
     
   2. [**Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)**](https://biblehub.com/topical/s/salt_and_light.htm)  
   Jesus calls His followers to be the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world." This theme emphasizes the influence and responsibility of Christians to preserve goodness and illuminate truth in a world that can be corrupt and dark. The Greek word *(phōs)* for "light" signifies the revealing and guiding nature of believers' lives.  
     
   3. [**Fulfillment of the Law (Matthew 5:17-20)**](https://biblehub.com/topical/f/fulfillment_of_the_law.htm)  
   Jesus declares that He has not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets but to fulfill them. This theme underscores the continuity and completion of the Old Testament in Christ. The Greek term *" (plēroō*) for "fulfill" suggests bringing to full expression or realization.  
     
   4. [**Teaching on Anger (Matthew 5:21-26)**](https://biblehub.com/topical/t/teaching_on_anger.htm)  
   Jesus expands on the commandment "You shall not murder," addressing the root of anger and reconciliation. This theme highlights the importance of inner righteousness and the dangers of harboring anger, which can lead to judgment.  
     
   5. [**Teaching on Adultery (Matthew 5:27-30)**](https://biblehub.com/topical/t/teaching_on_adultery.htm)  
   Jesus intensifies the commandment against adultery by addressing lustful thoughts. This theme emphasizes purity of heart and the seriousness of sin, even in thought, as the Greek word *(moicheuō)* for "adultery" extends beyond physical acts to intentions.  
     
   6. [**Teaching on Divorce (Matthew 5:31-32)**](https://biblehub.com/topical/t/teaching_on_divorce.htm)  
   Jesus addresses the issue of divorce, affirming the sanctity and permanence of marriage. This theme reflects the seriousness of the marriage covenant and the conditions under which divorce is permissible.  
     
   7. [**Teaching on Oaths (Matthew 5:33-37)**](https://biblehub.com/topical/t/teaching_on_oaths.htm)  
   Jesus instructs against making oaths, advocating for simple and honest communication. This theme stresses integrity and truthfulness, as the Greek word *(horkos)* for "oath" implies a binding promise that should not be necessary for truthful speech.  
     
   8. [**Teaching on Retaliation (Matthew 5:38-42)**](https://biblehub.com/topical/t/teaching_on_retaliation.htm)  
   Jesus challenges the principle of "an eye for an eye," promoting non-retaliation and generosity. This theme encourages a radical response to injustice, reflecting God's grace and mercy.  
     
   9. [**Love for Enemies (Matthew 5:43-48)**](https://biblehub.com/topical/l/love_for_enemies.htm)  
   Jesus commands love for enemies and prayer for persecutors, illustrating the perfect love of the Father. This theme calls for a love that transcends natural inclinations, as the Greek word (agapaō) for "love" denotes selfless, unconditional love.

**BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS**

**TEACHER’S NOTE: As you study the chapter these questions will help you to formulate your thoughts in these areas as you explore Jesus’ teachings in these areas. The intent is not to look for a right or wrong answer as much as we are trying to encourage you to take time to give deeper thought to the teachings of Jesus in these areas. We will discuss portions as we proceed through this series of lessons.**

**1.** How do the Beatitudes redefine the understanding of blessedness?

**2.** In what ways can believers be 'salt and light' in today's world?

**3.** Reflect on Jesus' assertion that He came to fulfill the Law. How does this understanding influence your interpretation of Old Testament laws?

**4.** How does Jesus' teaching on anger challenge conventional understanding of sin?

**5.** In what ways can Jesus' teaching on oaths guide our communication in the present day?

**6.** How does Jesus' command to love enemies challenge conventional norms of justice and retaliation?

**7.** In what ways does this chapter present a transformative vision of life in the Kingdom of God?

**8.** Reflect on how the principles outlined in the Sermon on the Mount could influence social responsibility in our communities.

**9.** How does Jesus' call to a higher righteousness affect your personal spiritual journey?

**10.** What are some practical ways to live out the values presented in the Beatitudes in today's society?

**11.** How can we reconcile the teachings on divorce with the different life situations people face today?

**12.** How can we "turn the other cheek" in a society that often promotes revenge?

**13.** How does the concept of perfect love, as taught by Jesus, change your perception of love in today's world?

**14.** How does Jesus' teaching on adultery influence your understanding of purity and faithfulness?

**15.** How can you implement the principle of being 'salt and light' in your workplace or home?

**16.** What steps can you take to ensure your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees, as per Jesus' teaching?

**17.** How does Jesus' teaching on reconciliation influence your relationships and conflict resolution strategies?

**18.** How can you practice the Sermon on the Mount's teachings in your daily life?

**19.** How do you respond to the command to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect?

**20.** How does Jesus' teaching about retaliation and loving your enemies challenge your attitudes towards people who have wronged you?