

Digging Deeper

Family Devotions



How to use 'Digging Deeper' for Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

As we continue to study the Sermon on the Mount, this week's 'Digging Deeper' has three Bible passages to read. There are a couple of ways you can do this. You could have three smaller discussions reading one passage at a time. Or one big discussion, reading each passage as it comes up. There is no right or wrong way, simply whatever works best for your household.

Memory Verse

Can you remember the Memory Verse we learned last week? You can find Miriam leading the Memory Verse video (minus the teaching) in the "Do Not Murder" Google Drive Folder. See if you can remember it.

View it again at <https://youtu.be/M4ZwFCOzUcg> or search 'Sermon On The Mount Memory Verse' on YouTube.

Something to remember

As we keep looking at Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is going to show us the way that we are to live if we follow Him.

As you look at each passage, keep asking:

- a) How is the way Jesus says we should act, different to the way the world acts?
- b) The Bible says Jesus acted this way perfectly. How do we see that in this passage?
- c) How can we reflect Jesus?

Passage 1 - Matthew 5:17-26 (for younger children, read Matthew 5:21-26)

Jesus is saying that, if we follow Him, knowing what God wants and then doing it is really important! We are still to live our lives the way that God has commanded us to live in the Bible. A big way we will show others that we follow Jesus is in the way that we speak and act towards other people. If we follow Jesus, we are to speak kindly to other people and try to resolve conflicts quickly.

1. How does Jesus say we are to treat God's commands (5:19, 20)?
2. Why do you think Jesus says that getting angry at someone is as bad as murdering them?
3. Is there someone you're in conflict with now? How can you go and make it right with them?

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Passage 2 - Matthew 5:27-37 (for younger children, read Matthew 5:33-36)

Jesus is saying that, if we follow Him, we will live faithfully and truthfully. According to Jesus, if we say that we'll do something, then people should be able to trust that we will do it, no matter what.

(Note: While the above summary covers all of verses 27-37, our focus in the discussion questions is on verses 33-37, as that is most directly applicable to children now. We recognise that for some, Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce is hard, and may be an area that causes pain and possibly guilt. While God is clear in how he wants his people to live, the great news is that he accepts us not because of our achievements [or failures] but because of Christ's).

1. What does Jesus mean when he's talking about "swearing" in 5:34? What does He say about it?
2. Jesus says, "Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." Why do you think this is?
3. What are some ways you're tempted to not do the things you've said you'll do? What do you need to do today that you've said you'll do but haven't done yet?

Passage 3 - Matthew 5:38-48 (for younger children, read Matthew 5:43-48)

Jesus is saying that, instead of trying to get even with someone who wrongs you, we should "not resist an evil person" (5:39) and "love [our] enemies" (5:44). Jesus claims that, while it's possible for anyone to love the people who love and are like them, we need to love all people like God loves them.

1. Why should those who follow Jesus treat even their enemies with love?
2. Why is it so hard to love those who treat us badly?
3. Who is someone you find particularly hard to love? Spend some time praying for them now.

Watch "Digging Deeper - Montague McBrain - Loving Others" from the Google Drive, or at <https://youtu.be/3RezMI-vccg>

