

Wednesday

Read: **Matthew 5:33-37** *Oaths and honesty*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does Jesus say we shouldn't just avoid making any false promises? Why should we never swear?*
2. *What problems have you seen when oaths or promises are broken?*

Prayer Focus Jesus, teach us the kind of honesty that won't let us abandon our promises when they become inconvenient—even the ones we make in your name.

Thursday

Read: **Matthew 5:38-42** *Retaliation and kindness*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What is the role of justice in Jesus' world?*
2. *Reflect and pray on your feelings about violence.*

Prayer Focus Sometimes we feel our thoughts and actions don't matter. But we understand we're to be held to a higher standard. Make us worthy, Jesus. Let us feel that worth.

Friday

Read: **Matthew 5:43-48** *Hatred and love*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How easily do you forgive when someone harms you or brings harm to others?*
2. *Can we be perfect? How?*

Prayer Focus We cannot follow your laws by ourselves, Teacher. We can't be perfect. We need you. We commit today to drawing closer to you and to the vision you have for us, our lives, and our world.

The Extensions

Pastor's message: **Matthew 5:21-48**

Message Notes:



Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Do you make lists of things to do? Why/Why not?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Matthew 5:21-48**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

THE EXTENSIONS

April 14, 2024

Monday

Read: **Matthew 5:21-26** *Anger and reconciliation*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does Jesus seem to equate anger with murder?*
2. *What does reconciliation look like to you?*

Prayer Focus Jesus, lead us through these verses with our hearts tuned to yours, knowing how much you want us to have peace, joy, and wholeness in our relationships, in our souls. Help us live as a people transformed by your grace.

Tuesday

Read: **Matthew 5:27-32** *Marriage and fidelity*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How do you see Jesus' idea that just looking is the same as committing the act of adultery? Is he being too harsh?*
2. *Do you see divorce as a problem for us today? Why?*

Prayer Focus Relationships can be so hard for us, Jesus. It's so easy to let our thoughts carry us into action, so easy sometimes to dismiss another's feelings and even their humanity, so we end up in pain. Help us see others through the eyes of your heart, to better ways of living and being, loving others as you love us.