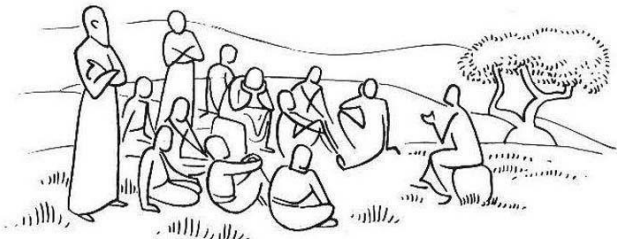


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Sermon On The Mount



Weeks 5-9 of the 9-Week Series

## Introduction to the series: *Sermon On The Mount*

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' longest recorded sermon in the Bible. His words to the disciples and curious crowds were radical! And they still are today. Instead of just teaching people to follow a list of religious rules, Jesus taught them the importance of obeying God from the heart.

True followers of Jesus follow Him in all things, even in their most private thoughts. Essentially, Jesus uses the sermon to ask us this question: *Will you really follow me?* Our answer to that question has eternal significance. It is only as true followers of Christ, with the help of the Holy Spirit in us, that we can accept Jesus' words and live life from the right heart.

A life that follows Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount is a life that unashamedly shines Jesus for the whole world to see. Join us in this series that teaches us how to shine our light and bring Him glory each day!

Ali Shaw, 4G Guide Contributor

## Introduction To The 4G Guide

*GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE*

It's important that we *GATHER* each week as a church family. Still, God has so much more for us! He wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. These guides are written to encourage you in your personal *GOD TIME* and in your small *GROUPS*. They are designed to help you understand what God is teaching and apply it to your daily life. Understanding and application allows you to then take what God is teaching and *GIVE* it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the *Christian Standard Bible* (CSB Text Edition: 2020).

# 4G

## USING THE 4G GUIDE

Each week is divided into four sections:

### Gathering Time



On Sunday mornings we gather (in person or online) to worship, hear God’s message, and be challenged to apply His word. You’ll find the weekly Gathering Time sermon outlines in this booklet.

If you need to join us online, go to [bcfamily.net](http://bcfamily.net) and click “Watch Live”

### Group Time



We learn from one another! 4G Groups meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. Group Time outlines are simple enough for anyone to facilitate. In addition, links to short video guides, sermon recaps, and other helpful resources are posted on our 4G web page.\*

### God Times



Personal worship is vital to the Christian walk, so we’ve provided five daily devotionals for each weekly topic. This is your time to meet with God one-on-one in a guided devotional format. Once your God Time is finished, pray, seeking direction for the day.

### Family Time



Family worship glorifies God. To help, we have created simple Family Time devotionals. In addition, to help get the conversations flowing, video or story guide links may be posted on our 4G web page.\*








\* 4G web page: [CBCFamily.net/4g](http://CBCFamily.net/4g)

## The 3-Step “1-on-1 Encouragement” Process

*Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.*

Hebrews 10:23-25

1. Partner-up: Partners should be of the same gender. If there is an odd number, three is OK, but work swiftly.
2. Partners ask each other these five questions:

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|    | 1) Did you spend specific personal time in the <b>BIBLE</b> <u>each day</u> this past week?   | These are “Yes” or “No” questions.  |
|    | 2) Did you spend specific time in <b>PRAYER</b> <u>each day</u> this past week – not just for meals?                                  | Any hesitations or “Well...” responses are circled “No.”  |
|    | 3) Did you do something specific to show Godly <b>LOVE</b> to someone this past week?   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they showed love to, shared the gospel with, or disciplined.</li> </ul> |
|  | 4) Did you intentionally share the <b>GOSPEL</b> with anyone this past week?  |   |
|  | 5) Did you <b>DISCIPLE</b> anyone this past week?<br>(Ex: Sharing with others from any of the Gathering, God, Group, or Family Times) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If not, leave the line blank.</li> </ul>   |

3. Each partner prays for the other: No matter how or what the partner has done over the past week, this is an intentional prayer of **encouragement** for the coming week!



Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Love Like Your Father Loves You

\_\_\_\_\_ Those Who Are Not \_\_\_\_\_ To Love

*Matthew 5:38-42*

*Matthew 5:43-48*

We \_\_\_\_\_ Because God \_\_\_\_\_ Us

*Romans 5:10*

Five Ways To \_\_\_\_\_ Like Your \_\_\_\_\_

- When You Are \_\_\_\_\_ Speak Words Of \_\_\_\_\_
- Pray That God \_\_\_\_\_ The Person You Don't \_\_\_\_\_
- Give To \_\_\_\_\_ Who Doesn't Have \_\_\_\_\_ To Give You
- When You Want To \_\_\_\_\_ Take One More \_\_\_\_\_
- Set Loving \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_ Built On \_\_\_\_\_ Will \_\_\_\_\_

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**WEEK 5: LOVE LIKE YOUR FATHER LOVES YOU**



**Group Time**

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See page 2 for directions)

Y / N   
 Y / N   
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_   
 \_\_\_\_\_

**LOOK BACK:**

**Point:** *Intentions matter! Stop trying to be good and start fixing your mind on your relationship with Jesus.*

- Share with the group what you learned from your three-day journal. What will you change?

**Question:** What is the difference between following the letter of the law and adhering to the spirit of the law?

**LOOK UP:** Watch this week’s video on the 4G web page.

**Recap:** There are those in life who would have ill intent towards us. They are called enemies. We’ve all had them, from family members to those who don’t even know us and live on the other side of the world. We might even wish or pray that they get their just rewards or just plain go away. But Jesus continues His *“You have heard it said...”* verses with a new twist on our relationships with those who might be enemies – we are to love them.

To love those who seek to harm us requires suffering and humility – traits that aren’t exactly the American way. Such displays ultimately show where our true assurance resides and points to our heavenly Father and what He has done for us. We love because God loves us and wants all people to be reconciled to Himself through us.

**LOOK IN: Discussion**

- Share an example of when you or someone else got insulted but reacted with only a blessing. What resulted?
- Share an example of when you or someone else gave money, food, shelter, etc., to someone who would otherwise have despised them. What resulted?
- Read Matthew 5:45. Discuss the meaning and implications of the words *“so that”* (CSB, ESV).

**LOOK FORWARD: Application**

**Point:** *A life built on love will last.*



**Loving Those Who Love Us Is Easy; Try Something Hard.**

Who are your enemies? (You have no love for them, and/or they have no love for you.)

Politically

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Religiously

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Community

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Family

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Jesus gives us this command in Matthew 5:44: *“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”*

This week, write out a prayer for each of those above and pray.

Is there some action you could intentionally take to show one of them godly love?

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Try it and see what happens.

Why?

Jesus follows His command in Matthew 5:44 with this in Matthew 5:45a: *“So that you may be children of your Father in heaven.”*

Show others that you are a child of God.



WEEK 5: LOVE LIKE YOUR FATHER LOVES YOU

God Time Day 1: Return Good for Evil



Jesus had a lot to say in this famous sermon about how God’s people should treat others when they are mistreated. The reason God’s people should act this way is because it is the way God acts towards us.



Read Matthew 5:43-45, 48  
*<sup>43</sup>You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup>But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. For he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>48</sup>Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*



Circle the two things we must do in verse 44.

Underline the first part of verse 45 (“so that...”).



Rewrite verse 44 and the first part of 45 in your own words:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In a world that delights in revenge and stories of payback, God’s way is remarkably different. He doesn’t just send blessings to “the good,” but upon all. If we are to be His children, we must practice this same kind of grace. If others insult and mistreat us for our faith, we can – by God’s power – still respond with words and acts of blessing.

Think of someone who has talked badly about you recently.

Pray right now for God to reveal to you how to show them God’s love and be a blessing to them. Write down two things you can do this week.



1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

God Time Day 2: Praying for a Blessing

Re-read Matthew 5:43-45 from yesterday.



Rewrite Matthew 5:44

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Read Romans 12:14, 19-21  
*<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.*

*<sup>19</sup>Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for God’s wrath, because it is written, Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>But If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. For in so doing you will be heaping fiery coals on his head. <sup>21</sup>Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.*

Draw some comparisons between what Jesus said in Matthew to what Paul wrote in Romans:

| Matthew 5:43-45      | Romans 12:14, 19-21  |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| <br><br><br><br><br> | <br><br><br><br><br> |

Underline the word “bless” both times in Romans 12:14.

Bless is repeated to emphasize the point. God invites us to break the cycle of hate by blessing our enemies.



What is it that is keeping you from responding in this godly way when others mistreat you?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cross out that excuse and ask God to give you the faith to handle things His way.



When you’ve done it, tell someone about the results of the change you’ve made in your response to mistreatment.

WEEK 5: LOVE LIKE YOUR FATHER LOVES YOU

God Time Day 3: Giving Without Expectation



Read Matthew 5:46-47

*46For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? 47And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what are you doing out of the ordinary? Don't even the Gentiles do the same?*

The saying "Scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" reflects the way so much of our world works. The last sentence in the passage above makes it clear that doing something good just to get a reward is nothing special – not the kind of unconditional love God's people should show.



What is something loving you can do for someone today without expecting anything in return?

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God Time Day 4: When You Want to Give Up



All this week's devotionals are intended to help us love more like God does. All of us know someone who feels deep pain due to a loved one who rejects their love. If we could only understand how much God has endured so we can be reunited with Him, it would help us to never give up hope.



Read Isaiah 40:31

*But those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not faint.*

This passage reminds us that only God's power is enough to see us through when we feel like giving up; we can trust Him and have the strength to take one more step.



Ask God to show you how to keep trying. Plan what you will do this week in response:

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God Time Day 5: Set Loving Boundaries



Read Matthew 5:38-42

*38You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. 39But I tell you, don't resist an evildoer. On the contrary, if anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. 40As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let him have your coat as well. 41And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. 42Give to the one who asks you, and don't turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.*

This passage raises some strong issues about how far Jesus really expects us to go when others mistreat us. Some might understand these verses to mean that we should become literal doormats, enabling evil to act without consequences. Others might simply dismiss Jesus' commands as unrealistic.

A healthy understanding of these verses will mean that we continue to struggle with how far Jesus intends for us to go in not fighting back and blessing others when we are mistreated.

While we learn not to fight back, we also understand that God's love does not mean enabling bad choices or acting as if being mistreated is okay. Part of loving people is the willingness to set appropriate boundaries.



How have you struggled with Jesus' teaching on this subject?

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What do you need to do this week to apply His teaching to your life?

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Share that plan with a trusted friend.



## Family Time



Main Idea:  
Unconditional Love

**Key Verse: Matthew 5:43-45**

<sup>43</sup> You have heard that it was said, *Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.* <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, *love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,* <sup>45</sup> *so that you may be children of your Father in heaven.*

**Set it Up:**

Saying the words “I love you” is easy, but how many people do you love so deeply that you expect nothing in return from them? Love is unending; love is not selfish, because it asks for nothing in return; love is deserved, because it cannot be earned; love is unconditional, because it is not based on actions; and it is supernatural, because it is not something that can be done in your own strength. Check out this short video to see what other kids say love is.

**Watch: Week 5 Video**

This week’s video is on the Playlist of the CBC YouTube channel or go to [CBCFamily.net/4g](http://CBCFamily.net/4g) for the video link.

**Talk:**

God loved you so much that even knowing you would turn away and very possibly never return His love, He still sent His one and only Son to die for you.

Once you accept and understand this concept of love, you can grow into who God created you to be. How do you do this? By allowing the Holy Spirit to work in you, relying on the Word of God, and applying the Word to your heart.

Then there will be a new life, new desires, a new nature, and a new heart. Ezekiel 36:26 says, *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”* (NIV)

This unconditional love, when you understand it, will inspire you to respond to others in the same way. Love without expectation just as God did for you.

**Activity: Make a list of people we love and people who love us.**

Make a list or create a photo page of family members and friends. Use this list (or page) to remind everyone that there are lots of people who care for us and that we love as well. Discuss the idea that love is limitless – no matter how many people we love, there is always more love in our hearts. Love is endless to receive and endless to give.



Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A Private Life With Public Impact

Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ Is An \_\_\_\_\_ Job

*Matthew 6:1*

Secret \_\_\_\_\_ That Produce A \_\_\_\_\_  
Life

- \_\_\_\_\_ In Secret

*Matthew 6:2-4*

- \_\_\_\_\_ In Secret

*Matthew 6:5-8*

*Matthew 6:9-15*

- \_\_\_\_\_ In Secret

*Matthew 6:16-18*

Your \_\_\_\_\_ Life Determines Your \_\_\_\_\_  
Impact

- Don't Worry About \_\_\_\_\_ People

- Spend \_\_\_\_\_ With God

- Practice True \_\_\_\_\_

- Develop \_\_\_\_\_ Who Aren't \_\_\_\_\_

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**Group Time**

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See page 2 for directions)

Y / N   
 Y / N   
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**LOOK BACK:**

*Point:* A life built on love will last.

- Share how your prayer time went. Did you struggle? Did it get easier? Did God speak to you as a result?

**Question:** There is a popular phrase, “What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.” How have you heard people apply it? What is ultimately wrong with the phrase?

**LOOK UP:** Watch this week’s video on the 4G web page.

**Recap:** After preaching in Matthew 5 on letting our lights shine before others and loving our enemies openly so that they can see God in us, Jesus seems to change direction in Matthew 6. But it has more to do with intent than it does with extent.

We shine and love not to get some sort of accolades, but we do it because of having Jesus’ Spirit inside us. And, if we are in a right relationship with God, it simply flows out of us.

So, check yourself and apply these righteous practices: give in secret, pray in secret, and fast in secret. Accolades may come, but only those from our Father in heaven have any true value.

**LOOK IN: Discussion**

- We were going to ask you to share about times you gave, prayed, and fasted in secret, but... never mind.

Read Matthew 6:9-15.

- What does it mean to *honor someone’s name*?
- What does verse 10 mean? What does that look like?
- In verse 12, what is the meaning and implication of the words “*as we?*” And how does it fit with verses 14 and 15?

**LOOK FORWARD: Application**

*Point:* Your private life determines your public impact!

**Build A Private Life That Will Last**

Are you prepared to give secretly? Do you have God-approved criteria? What is your plan?

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Do you pray intentionally or reactively? Do you have a plan to pray in secret? Make a plan.

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- Who do you need to forgive?

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Do you have a plan to fast in secret? Make a plan.

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God Time Day 1: An Inside Job

 Our world makes judgments about good and bad based on how things feel or how they will benefit us in the moment. This allows many people to become famous and popular despite a lack of internal character. Eventually, this lack of character comes to light. True character and righteousness begins on the inside and then reveals itself on the outside.

 Read Matthew 6:1  
*Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father in heaven.*

Draw a box around the four words after “Otherwise.”

 What comes to mind when you think of the consequences of “no reward with your Father in heaven?”

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Jesus emphasizes the need to focus on the heart rather than appearances – to please God rather than try to impress people. Some of His strongest words were spoken against religious people who worked hard to appear righteous – Jesus called them “*whitewashed tombs full of dead men’s bones.*” (Matthew 23:27)

As you consider several different spiritual practices this week (giving, praying, fasting), spend time thinking about ways your life demonstrates your commitment to God.

How much of what you do is in the public eye versus behind the scenes?

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 What will you do this week to practice righteousness in secret?


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God Time Day 2: Giving In Secret

 Nearly every sports stadium is named after its corporate sponsors and buildings are often named in honor of major donors (hospitals, universities, etc.). Even public radio will call out the names of their donors. It’s all part of a “pay for play” way of doing things.

 Read Matthew 6:2-4  
*<sup>2</sup>So whenever you give to the poor, don’t sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be applauded by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

What reward comes to those who give with publicity?

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What reward comes to those who give in secret?

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 How would explain these verses in your own words?

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The way that you give is a strong indicator of the state of your heart. If you do good merely to gain the praise of others, it shows that you are grasping for approval rather than living with the knowledge that God already approves of you because of Jesus – He IS your righteousness.

Plan to do something loving for someone else without anyone knowing it was you. Afterward, spend time talking to God about the experience.



Resist the temptation to tell someone else about your giving.

God Time Day 3: Praying In Secret



Read Matthew 6:5-8  
*<sup>5</sup>Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>7</sup>When you pray, don't babble like the Gentiles, since they imagine they'll be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup>Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him.*



What reward comes to those who pray to be "seen by people?"

\_\_\_\_\_  
What is different about a prayer done in secret?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

God Time Day 4: Fasting In Secret



Read Matthew 6:16-18  
*<sup>16</sup>Whenever you fast, don't be gloomy like the hypocrites. For they make their faces unattractive so that their fasting is obvious to people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting isn't obvious to others but to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

Underline the first phrases of verses 16 & 17.



What is the use of the word "when" implying? (Vs 17)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
When was the last time you fasted for spiritual purposes?  
\_\_\_\_\_



This week's Go2 emphasis is Fast & Pray. We are skipping one meal and spending that time praying for those we know who don't know Jesus. For more info: [CBCFamily.net/go2](http://CBCFamily.net/go2)

God Time Day 5: From the Inside Out



Re-read Matthew 6:1 from Day 1  
What have you learned this week about practicing righteousness in secret?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A major theme in Jesus' teachings is the emphasis on the heart versus following a list of rules. (Remember the "you have heard it said. . . but I say to you" passages?). Part of the reason for this focus is to get people to think in terms of eternal (heavenly) rather than temporary (earthly) reward.



Read 2 Corinthians 4:18  
*So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

Based on this verse, what will be the result of any good deeds performed so that they may be seen?

\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus again speaks to the priority of the heart compared to the rules and demands of the religious leaders.



Read Matthew 23:25-26  
*<sup>25</sup> Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside of it may also become clean.*

In verse 26, what must be done before the outside (visible) can become clean?

\_\_\_\_\_



What choices are you making to prioritize the "cleaning" of your inner life? (E.g., giving, praying, and fasting in secret from Days 1-4)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Family Time



Main Idea:

## Whose Kingdom Is It?

**Key Verse: Matthew 6:9-11**<sup>9</sup> *Therefore, you should pray like this:**Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy.*<sup>10</sup> *Your kingdom come.**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*<sup>11</sup> *Give us today our daily bread.***Set it Up:**

Why does a basketball or soccer coach have to watch the game? Why can't the coach hang out at the snack bar? (Because the coach has to watch the game and tell the players what to do to play better.) God is like a coach – to live the right way we need to listen to Him.

**Activity:**

Get some individually wrapped candies (like Hershey's Kisses), an ice cream scoop, a large plastic bowl, and a blindfold. Sit in a circle on the floor. Randomly spread ten of the kisses on the floor. Select one person and blindfold them.



Say, "You will have 30 seconds to collect the candy, but you must do it blindfolded and with one arm behind your back. You can only pick them up with the scoop. You get to keep the ones that get into the bowl. No one can help the blindfolded person. And go."

After the 30 seconds is over, try it again. This time someone can give directions to the blindfolded person to find the candy. Repeat this as many times as you would like and see who can get the most candies in the 30 seconds.

**Discussion:**

Say: We advance God's kingdom by letting Him rule all areas of our lives. We don't always know how to do this at first. We grow by turning over each area for His will to be done in it.

**Ask:**

What was the difference between doing the game with and without a guide?

Was it more fun with a guide?

God is our guide and we need to listen to Him. Even though it may not be exactly what we want to hear, He sees things we don't see. Give me an example of where this has happened in your life.

**Prayer Time:**

Ask God to help you trust Him and let Him be in charge of your life, especially when you want to be the boss.



Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

A Stress-Free Life

How \_\_\_\_\_ Is \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 6:19-21*

*Matthew 6:22-24*

Walk In The \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 6:25*

*Matthew 6:26-30*

*Matthew 6:31-34*

\_\_\_\_\_ First

• First Of The \_\_\_\_\_

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• First Of the \_\_\_\_\_

Horizontal lines for taking notes.



**Group Time**

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See page 2 for directions)

Y / N   
 Y / N   
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_   
 \_\_\_\_\_

**LOOK BACK:**

*Point:* Your private life determines your public impact!

- Did you make plans to give, pray, and fast in secret? Did you have any application questions for the group?

**Question:** When you were 10, what was the most important thing each day? What was your biggest worry?

**LOOK UP:** Watch this week’s video on the 4G web page.

**Recap:** As we continue looking at Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapter 6, He continues His focus on priorities. In a world that defines more as better, Jesus reminds us that all worldly stuff is temporary. He challenges us regarding our focus, desire, and heart. In a world where more is better, you can never have enough. And not having enough leads to anxiety and worry. Instead, Jesus tells us what we should be seeking more of – God’s kingdom.

We must prioritize seeking God’s kingdom and this requires intentionality. Each day we must put God’s Word and prayer first. Each week we must prioritize worshipping with our family. And every month we must seek opportunities to serve and share the good news with those who don’t know Jesus.

**LOOK IN: Discussion**

Read Matthew 6:21 & 24. Share about a time in your life that you, or someone you knew, tried to “serve two masters.”

Read Matthew 6:25.

- What do you worry about?
- How do you justify that with Matthew 6:25-34? Without playing semantics with the word, is it, or when is it, okay to “worry?”
- How can we put Matthew 6:33 into practical practice?

**LOOK FORWARD: Application**

*Point:* A little more is never the answer – unless it’s more of God’s kingdom.

*Seek First...*

**First of the day:** We all might know we need to spend daily quiet time with God in Bible study and prayer – that’s what the daily God Times in this booklet are for. But what are your intentions? Try this: in the space below, write a personalized prayer asking God, “What do you have for me today?” Pray it each day with sincerity.

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**First of the week:** Make a specific plan to prepare for next week’s Gathering Time and particularly for the worship time. How can you keep you and your family focused on what matters for that day?

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**First of the month:** (T3) How will you spend your time, talent, and treasure this next month for God’s kingdom? What is your plan?

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Talent: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasure: \_\_\_\_\_

# GO2

April 2<sup>nd</sup> is *First Saturday Serve*.  
Don't have a project? Come to  
the Bastrop Campus at 9AM



[CBCFamily.net/go2](http://CBCFamily.net/go2)



April 9<sup>th</sup> is  
*Second Saturday Fast & Pray*.  
Join us at the Smithville Campus, 9AM.  
For more info, go to [CBCFamily.net/prayer](http://CBCFamily.net/prayer)

Women's Agape Groups and Men's Fireteams.  
Connect with just a few others for growth  
and encouragement.

## Groups

4G Groups are essential to Calvary's  
strategy and a blessing in our journey to  
understand and apply God's Word.  
*Find your group!*

[CBCFamily.net/groups](http://CBCFamily.net/groups)



## Easter 2022 Events

Saturday, April 9

# Easter Eggstravaganza

11 AM – 1 PM

Bastrop & Smithville

Egg Hunt, Bounce Houses, Food, Crafts, & More

## Easter Services

(Same Service each day and time)

Friday, April 15

| <u>Bastrop</u> | <u>Smithville</u> | <u>Calvario</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 6:30 PM        | 6:30 PM           | 7:30 PM         |

Sunday, April 17

| <u>Bastrop</u> | <u>Smithville</u> | <u>Calvario</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 9:00 AM*       | 8:30 AM*          | 11:30 AM        |
| 10:15 AM       | 9:45 AM           |                 |
| 11:30 AM       | 11:00 AM          |                 |

\*No Kids Activities

God Time Day 1: Where Is Your Treasure?



Read Matthew 6:19-21

<sup>19</sup>Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



In the verses above, Jesus continues His teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. Where does He say to store up treasure? Why?

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Jesus is reminding us that this world is temporary and that spiritual things are more important than earthly things. How would you rate yourself on where you place the importance of spiritual treasure (1 low, 10 high)?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

What you treasure most is important! It shows the condition of your heart. When you seek what's important to God (loving Him, loving others, sharing Him, etc.), you are proving by your actions what your heart values most.



What "treasures" of this world distract you from Jesus?

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What can you do today to set those distractions aside?

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What action(s) will you take to focus on Jesus? (Pray, worship, recite Scripture, talk about Him with others, etc.)

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God Time Day 2 - Walk in the Light



It may seem to be an obvious statement, but if your eyes work properly, you can see. If they don't? You can't.



Read Matthew 6:22-24

<sup>22</sup>The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup>But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light within you is darkness, how deep is that darkness! <sup>24</sup>No one can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Underline "your whole body will be full of light" and "your whole body will be full of darkness."

In ancient times, it was thought that a healthy, working eye had a light of its own that shined out so that a person could see. Here, Jesus talks about light coming into the body. This was a very unusual (and correct) teaching with additional spiritual implications! What we focus on (who or what we worship) will "come in" and either fill us with light or darkness. When we worship Jesus, we're full of light and can walk in it.

Bible scholars say that the word "healthy" can also mean "generous" and the word "bad" can also mean "stingy." Jesus used these double meanings to tell us what walking in the light looks like: when we are filled with Jesus, we'll be spiritually healthy and generous with Him and others.



How does this concept relate to verse 24 and to verses 19-21 that we read yesterday?

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Are you filled with Jesus, walking in the light? If so, share Jesus so someone else can walk in the light, too!

Do you have a "bad eye" that has been blind to sin? Cry out to Jesus and ask Him to flood you with His marvelous light!



To talk to someone about this, contact the CBC office.



**God Time Day 3 - In the Light: Be Satisfied**



Read Matthew 6:25  
*Therefore I tell you: Don't worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing?*

Put a box around the words "Don't worry."

Compare the worries of Jesus' day (above) and those today.

| 1 <sup>st</sup> Century – Matthew 6:25 | Today |
|--|-------|
|  |       |

Whether 1<sup>st</sup> Century or 2022, having more will not relieve stress. Jesus teaches that worry is relieved by being satisfied.



Write down your three biggest worries. Give them to God in prayer. Put an X over them and write "Be satisfied" above it.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**God Time Day 4 - In the Light: Don't Worry**



Read Matthew 6:33-34  
<sup>33</sup>*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things [your needs] will be provided for you.* <sup>34</sup>*Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*



Circle the words "don't worry" in verse 34  
Underline anything that stands out to you.



In verse 33 above, what are we told to do?  
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Put a box around the result of that.

Choose not to worry today, and if you know someone who worries, intentionally point them to God. [CBCFamily.net/go2](http://CBCFamily.net/go2)

**God Time Day 5 - Seek First**



Reread Matthew 6:33  
*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things [your needs] will be provided for you.*



What do you think it means to "seek first the kingdom of God?"  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

The kingdom of God is a major theme of the Bible. God is the rightful, ultimate King whether we submit to Him or not. However, He wants to be the King of our hearts. We have a choice to claim Him as our King or to reject Him. When we claim Him as King, it means that we should submit to His leadership. This is what Jesus was talking about in verse 33 above. When we seek what matters to Him (sharing the Gospel, loving those who don't love us, etc.) then we can trust that our wise, good, and loving King will take excellent, eternal care of those in His kingdom. (Even when life doesn't seem to be going our way.)

We can seek God's kingdom first in many ways. How would you rate yourself in each area below (1 low, 10 high) and what will you do to improve your score?



1. Give God the first of the day. (Daily devotions, etc.)  
 1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Give God the first of the week. (Sunday gatherings, etc.)  
 1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10  
 \_\_\_\_\_



3. Give God the first of the month. (Ministry service, serving at church, sponsoring a student, etc.)  
 1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10  
 \_\_\_\_\_

How might you help someone else score high? Plan to do it. Start an Agape Group or Fireteam: [CBCFamily.net/groups](http://CBCFamily.net/groups)



Family Time

Main Idea:  
Life is Worship



Key Verse: Matthew 6:32-33

*32 For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.*



Set it Up:

When is a good time to pray? (Before meals, before tests at school, before bedtime, all the time)

Re-read the key verse.

What will God, our Heavenly Father give us? (All our needs, not all our wants)



Discuss:

What are some of our daily needs? List some of them below.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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How does God meet our daily needs?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



When you look at God's creation, what are you thankful for? (E.g., sky, trees, lakes, birds, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Activity:

Get outside to a park or a place that has lots of trees and natural beauty. Bring your list from above, along with a grocery bag for each person.

You are on an expedition to collect things that remind you of God and how He provides for you. Spend ten minutes collecting the material and then sit down together and share with each other what you have in your bags and how it reminds you of God's provision.

Prayer Time:

Ask God to help you see Him in each part of creation and in other people.

After taking time to pray, turn on your favorite praise and worship song and have fun singing together. (Have lots of fun doing this together.)



Gathering Time (Sermon Outline)

Gathering Notes

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Real You

Stop \_\_\_\_\_ ...

- Holding Others To A Different \_\_\_\_\_  
*Matthew 7:1-2*
- Focusing On \_\_\_\_\_ Rather Than \_\_\_\_\_  
*Matthew 7:3-5*
- Trying To \_\_\_\_\_ People  
*Matthew 7:6*

... Start \_\_\_\_\_



Take Off The Mask

- Practice Radical \_\_\_\_\_
- Be \_\_\_\_\_ With One Person
- Make A \_\_\_\_\_ To Not Give Up

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**Group Time**

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See page 2 for directions)

Y / N   
 Y / N   
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_   
 \_\_\_\_\_

**LOOK BACK:**

**Point:** *A little more is never the answer – unless it's more of God's kingdom.*

- Share any changes you made to your God Time and/or Gathering Time.

**Question:** In 1988 Michael Jackson released a song titled "Man in the Mirror." Who can share the chorus lyrics?

**LOOK UP:** Watch this week's video on the 4G web page.

**Recap:** In chapter 7 of Matthew, Jesus continues focusing on our hearts and turns to our relationships with others. He addresses the human condition of hiding our true selves and relying on judging others to make ourselves seem better. This focus on others, holding them to a different standard, and thinking it's our job to fix them is frivolous at best. Jesus tells us to focus on fixing ourselves and to pursue godliness. When we focus on fixing ourselves and in turn show thankfulness and love to others, they will see our efforts and perhaps allow us to share why.

It's time to take off the mask and stop hiding who we are so we can begin fixing ourselves through confession, honesty, and commitment. On this side of heaven we will never achieve perfection, but we need to continue to grow and mature in Christ, loving others the way Jesus loved us.

**LOOK IN: Discussion**

How difficult is it to obey Matthew 7:1-2? Why is it so difficult?

We all get the plank stuff in Matthew 7:3-5 because we've all done it! But how would you explain 7:6 to a new believer?

Share about a time when someone, with whom you had little to nothing in common and even judged them, helped you through a difficult situation. How did it change your attitude towards them?

**LOOK FORWARD: Application**

**Point:** *Get off your high horse and start doing for others what Jesus did for you.*

**Take Off The Mask**

**Practice radical confession:** List your faults and own up to them. Try and fix them one at a time. Start with your top three. Make a plan for each and start with one this week.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Be honest with one person:** Who is that one person you can be totally honest with and will be the same with you? If you don't have someone, be intentional about cultivating relationships that can lead to trust and transparency. A great way to start is by forming a [Women's Agape Group](#) or [Men's Fireteam](#). Learn more at [CBCFamily.net/groups](http://CBCFamily.net/groups).




**Make a commitment to not give up:** One of the best ways to make any change in our lives is to love others – to see them as made in the image of God. What is one activity you can do this week to show godly love to someone(s) whom you may not consider so lovable?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Challenge yourself to get to know them while you do this. Ask about their life challenges. Offer to pray for them. Just listen and don't try to fix them. To help you, attend a **Mission2Share** training.

**God Time Day 1: Stop Holding Different Standards**

 You might often hear the word “hypocrite” thrown around, but do you understand what it means. The word comes from the Greek word “hypokrites” which referred to an actor “playing” a role they are not. Today it’s used when someone claims to “be” something that they are not. This might include claiming a false identity, having knowledge they do not have, or loyalty that they do not possess.

For the next few days, we will be looking at how Jesus instructs us to not be hypocrites.

Read Matthew 7:1-2.


*<sup>1</sup>Do not judge, so that you won’t be judged. <sup>2</sup>For you will be judged by the same standard with which you judge others, and you will be measured by the same measure you use.*


Underline the word “judge(d)” in both verses.

Now, draw a box around the word “For” in verse 2.


People will often quote only verse 1 to stop from hearing criticism that they don’t want to hear. But, in verse 2, the word “For” is a big word, because it tells us that verse 1 and verse 2 are connected.

Reread verse 2.


Jesus is warning us about judging others according to standards which we ourselves cannot live up to. And then others will judge us the way we judge them. 

 Think about a time that you looked down on someone for making a poor life choice. How did you judge them?


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Think about a time you made a poor life choice.   
How then did, or should, God judge you?


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 Pray for God to soften your heart, humble your spirit, and remove any pride from your life that may lead you to judge others unfairly.

**God Time Day 2: Stop Focusing Negatively on Others**


 Read Matthew 7:3-5  
*<sup>3</sup>Why do you look at the splinter in your brother’s eye but don’t notice the beam of wood in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the splinter out of your eye,’ and look, there’s a beam of wood in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>Hypocrite! First take the beam of wood out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother’s eye.*

It is much easier to see the faults in other people than to see our own faults. Jesus warns us to first focus on our own faults and deal with our own mistakes and shortcomings.

 Write down one of your faults.  
\_\_\_\_\_


 Ask God for forgiveness in this and pray for Him to help you grow and improve past that fault.


**God Time Day 3: Stop Trying to Change People**

 Read Matthew 7:6.  
*Don’t give what is holy to dogs or toss your pearls before pigs, or they will trample them under their feet, turn, and tear you to pieces.*

If you put a sweater on a dog, will the dog start behaving like Mr. Rogers? If you give expensive jewelry to a pig, will it believe that it is a member of high society?

As silly as this sounds, this is the problem that comes with trying to change people. The harder we try to force people to change, the more we end up pushing them away or hurting them in the process. It is not our place to change people, because we are not God. The only person we have the power to change is ourselves.

 Write down one thing you need to change in your life.  
\_\_\_\_\_

 Ask God to help you identify the first step to change:  
\_\_\_\_\_

God Time Day 4: Start Loving People!



Reread Matthew 7:1-6. (The verses covered on Days 1-3 of this week.)

For the past three days, we have been talking about not being hypocrites. Jesus describes three behaviors – judging, finding fault, and trying to change others – while ignoring the same faults in our own lives. Now that we know what not to do, we must figure out the right way to live.



Read Matthew 22:37-39  
*37He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38This is the greatest and most important command. 39The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Underline the word “Love.” (You’ll see it twice)

If you look back at the verses from Matthew 7, the verses all reflect an attitude of judgment or superiority over others. If there is any love in these types of behaviors, it is a conditional “love” that demands others to conform to our expectations to earn our love. (Conditional love is not real love.)

We can truly love others only when we begin to accept their shortcomings and faults as a reflection of their brokenness, because we are, or were, just as broken. It is the experience of God’s love despite our brokenness that leads to changed lives. When we focus on loving people, when we accept that we are all a work in progress, it is then that God can move and bring healing.

Write down the name of one person in your life that needs to know God’s love.

\_\_\_\_\_



Now, write down one thing you will do to humble yourself and show them God’s love this week.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

God Time Day 5: Take Off the Mask

Reread Matthew 22:37-39 from Day 4.



Now, read 1 John 4:19-20.  
*19We love because he first loved us. 20If anyone says, “I love God,” and yet hates his brother or sister, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.*

Jesus lays out this important cycle of love in Matthew 22. If we are honest with ourselves, there is nothing within us that is deserving of God’s love. But God loves us despite our sin and failures.

God loves us unconditionally, and if we humble ourselves and accept His unearned love, it becomes significantly easier to see what real love is. It is in this that we can then love others (our “brother or sister”) like He loves us.

For this whole process to begin, we must be willing to practice some honest self-reflection. The biblical term for this is “confession.” We must be willing to admit that we have faults and have made mistakes. We must then be willing to embrace God’s love, a love that looks past our sin. If we are honest with God about the sin in our own lives and accept His love and forgiveness, we will stop judging and rejecting others for the sin in their lives. We can then love them and introduce them to the unearned love of God.

Listen to this song and reflect on the words: “If We’re Honest” by Francesca Battistelli



What is one struggle you’ve had in your life where you found forgiveness? What do you wish someone had said to you, or what is one way you wish someone had shown you love during that struggle?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Pray for God to show you how to love others dealing with that same struggle. Commit to showing God’s love to at least one person who is struggling this week.

## Family Time



Main Idea:  
Being the Real Me

**Key Verse: Romans 12:2**

*Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*

**Set it Up:**

The Velveteen Rabbit is a classic book for children with a message for adults. In it is a revealing nursery dialogue between a new toy rabbit and an old skin horse. We'll check out this small part of the movie and then talk about how it helps us understand the importance of being the real us.

**Watch: Week 8 Video**

This week's video is on the Playlist of the CBC YouTube channel or go to [CBCFamily.net/4g](http://CBCFamily.net/4g) for the video link.

**Talk:**

As they are lying side by side one day, Rabbit asks Horse: "What is REAL?" . . . "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"



Take a long look at you, as Skin Horse suggests. Going through a lot of activities? Staying busy? In a hurry most of the time? Spinning around the squirrel cage? Seldom pausing to ask why?

Still reluctant to be loved . . . to be real? Still keeping a distance between yourself and your family members? Still substituting doing for being?

It'll never satisfy. You cannot play cover-up forever. What does God suggest? Having a heart of compassion, being kind, tender, transparent, gentle, patient, forgiving, loving, and lovable. All those things spell R-E-A-L.

Losing your hair takes time, and it's pretty painful to have your eyes drop out and your joints get loose. But in the long run, that's the only way to be. REAL.

**REAL**  
*(n.) not artificial, fraudulent, or illusory*



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### I Know I Am Saved

What Must I Do To Be \_\_\_\_\_?

- Know Who To \_\_\_\_\_  
*Matthew 7:7-11*
- Know What Will \_\_\_\_\_  
*Matthew 7:12*
- Know The \_\_\_\_\_  
*Matthew 7:13-14*
- Know Who To \_\_\_\_\_ To  
*Matthew 7:15-20*
- Know The \_\_\_\_\_  
*Matthew 7:21-23*

Are You \_\_\_\_\_ To Be \_\_\_\_\_?

*“About one thing I have absolutely no regrets, however, and that is my commitment many years ago to accept God’s calling to serve Him...” (Billy Graham)*

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**Group Time**

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See page 2 for directions)

Y / N   
 Y / N   
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_   
 \_\_\_\_\_

**LOOK BACK:**

**Point:** *Get off your high horse and start doing for others what Jesus did for you.*

- Share what you did to show love this past week.

**Question:** Have you ever tried to assemble something, following the directions word for word, but it just wasn't working? And then along came someone who's done it before, and they assemble it in like 10 seconds for you. Did you feel embarrassed or grateful?

**LOOK UP:** Watch this week's video on the 4G web page.

**Recap:** Every major religion in the world is about two things. First, getting your sins forgiven. Second, getting to heaven. And while the process and terminology may be different, the goals are the same. They are based on a simple truth; all people are sinful and sinful people don't get to go to heaven. Therefore, we all need to be "saved" and so the question comes, "What must I do to be saved?"

While all religions have their rules – unobtainable as they are – Jesus has been telling us in His Sermon on the Mount that while there are rules, it's really about your heart. Jesus knows the way and if you follow Him, He will transform you and you will be acceptable. The past will be forgiven, and you can enter heaven. But keep in mind, it's a narrow gate and a difficult road ahead.

**LOOK IN: Discussion**

Discuss how to explain that Christianity is different because it's not about "doing to get," but about "doing because we've been given."

Read Matthew 7:15-20. What is fruit? Use these Merriam-Webster definitions and discuss each (as appropriate) as they might pertain to the verses.



**LOOK FORWARD: Application**

**Point:** *A saved life should be an obedient life.*

**Jesus Offers Us A New Life**

Read Mark 1:15 and rewrite the command in your own words:

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Read Luke 7:36-50

Read it again. Which character in the story do you identify with?

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What does this story say about you?

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What does this story say about Jesus?

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What does "repent" mean?"

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What does "believe" mean?

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Why should we repent?

---

Who should repent?

---

What assurance do we have that our sins are forgiven?

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Read: John 10:28, Acts 2:38-41, Romans 10:9-10, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 John 1:9.



## God Time Day 1: Know Who to Ask



You've probably noticed that the whole Sermon on the Mount shows this: Jesus cares about the condition of our hearts. And He wants our inward change to have an outward effect. Through rich images, He shows what life looks like for a person who truly follows Him. Now, toward the end of His sermon, Jesus stops giving new teachings and focuses on how we can be sure we are the Father's child.



Read Matthew 7:7-11

*<sup>7</sup>Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>9</sup>Who among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him.*

Underline every reference to doors, knocking, and opening.



Keep that in mind and read John 10:9 (ESV).

*I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.*

Some people incorrectly interpret the passage in Matthew to be about asking God for earthly desires. Instead, Jesus is teaching that He is the door to a saving relationship with God and He will give us what we ask for when we ask according to His desires.

Look again at Matthew 7:7-11. Circle the words *ask*, *seek*, and *knock*. (We can do this through prayer.) Do you see how they progress in intensity?



What does He promise in verses 8 and 11?

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Pray, thanking the Father for giving the good gift of Jesus!

“Pray; pray often; make a business of prayer, and be serious and earnest in it.” (Matthew Henry)

## God Time Day 2: Know What Will Change



Read Matthew 7:12

*Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

(Note: “For this is the Law and the Prophets” means that this teaching is found throughout all of Scripture.)

When we've asked, sought, and knocked, and come to God in faith through Jesus, who is our door, our hearts change. We begin to focus on others... just like Jesus does.

How do you want to be treated?

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Who are you not treating that way?

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What will you do differently?

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## God Time Day 3: Know the One Way



Read Matthew 7:13-14

*<sup>13</sup>Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction [hell], and there are many who go through it. <sup>14</sup>How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life [heaven], and few find it.*

Jesus is the gate (door) and those who believe in Him are invited to enter through His perfection. Why do you think He is a “narrow gate?” Why do only “few find it?”

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Jesus is the narrow gate and going through is “difficult” because people reject Jesus out of pride, rebellion, and a desire to sin. Who do you desperately want to see join you on this difficult road? Who are you praying for?

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## God Time Day 4: Know Who To Listen To



Read Matthew 7:15-20

<sup>15</sup>Be on your guard against false prophets [teachers] who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves.

<sup>16</sup>You'll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree can't produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>So you'll recognize them by their fruit.

In verses 15 and 16, underline how the false prophets come and how we will recognize them.

Verses 17 and 18 give us some natural laws about trees and fruit that illustrate Jesus' teachings. In order to recognize the Father's children, we can look for their fruit. Then we'll know who to listen to.

The early disciples may have wondered, "If I need to come to the Father through Jesus, and learn more about my Christian faith, who do I listen to? What if someone I trust is a false teacher?"



How did Jesus answer these questions? (Verse 20)

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Dietrich Bonhoeffer said a bad tree "is bound to give itself away sooner or later. There is no need to go about prying into the hearts of others. All we need to do is wait..."

Do you have fruit for the world to see? What is it? (E.g., purity, generosity, disciples, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



God grows good fruit in us and from us when we follow Him. We must be obedient to the Holy Spirit's work in our lives for God to grow the fruit as He desires. In what way can you be more obedient today?

\_\_\_\_\_

## God Time Day 5: Know the Transformation



Read Matthew 7:21-23

<sup>21</sup>Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup>On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?" <sup>23</sup>Then I will announce to them, "I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!"

This passage sounds a little scary. But, like yesterday's passage, if we look closely, we'll see that Jesus sets our minds at ease.

Underline "only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven."

The underlined words are the key to understanding this. Does doing "the will of my Father" mean doing all the right stuff gets us into heaven? Nope. It can't mean that! This was the exact problem Jesus was addressing. He tells us about people who do churchy-sounding stuff, yet... something is missing.



Look carefully at verse 22. Circle the actions "prophesy, drive out, do." Notice, many call Him "Lord," but they don't stand on Christ's work. They rely on their own actions to save them — not faith.

So, the question is, what's the Father's will? God's will is that we all come to salvation by grace through faith in Christ (2 Peter 3:9). We must repent... which means that we turn away from something, and come to God, through the door of Jesus' perfection (See Days 1 and 3). We can absolutely be sure that we are saved! (See Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9-10, John 3:16, Acts 16:31)

Those with saving faith are transformed. They produce fruit (like we discussed yesterday) and continue in His will. One day we'll come before Jesus and stand on the righteousness of Christ — not relying on our own actions to save us.



Share your story of transformation with someone today!



## Family Time

Main Idea:

How do I know I am saved?



**Key Verse: Matthew 7:21-23**

*21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?' 23 Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!'*



**Set it Up:**

How can you know that you are a Christian? When you became a Christian, you probably heard the words, "you are saved." But do you know why you were saved?



Was it because of something good you did? No! Christians practice healthy habits like praying and reading the Bible to grow as a Christian, but these activities are a response to being saved.



**Activity:**

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17. What does this verse say about prayer?

The good news is that we can pray anywhere. The same is true about reading our Bible.

You will each need a piece of paper for this next activity.

1. Fold the lower left corner up to the right edge.

2. Fold the lower right corner up to the left edge to make an upside down house shape.

3. Fold the triangle (house roof) up.

4. Fold in half at the center point.

5. Slowly tear straight down the paper at the midway point.

6. Open up the paper to reveal the \_\_\_\_\_ . Place the \_\_\_\_\_ in your Bible at Romans 10:9.

Use this cross as your new bookmark when you read your Bible.

**Pray:**

Thank God for giving His Son Jesus to save you from your sin. Ask God to forgive you for your sins and ask Him to help you tell someone this week about how Jesus saved you.