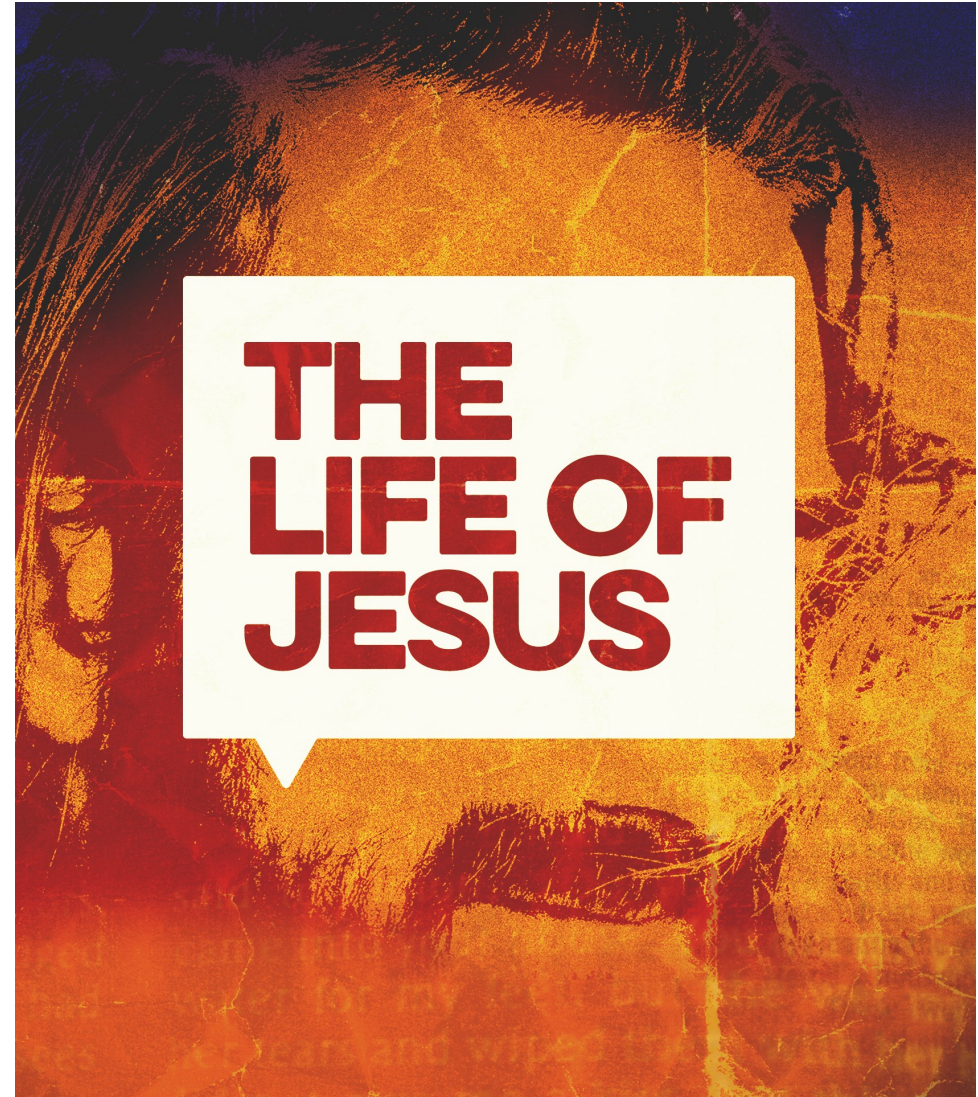


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# SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

**NORTH:** Jan. 17/21 | **SOUTH:** Jan. 24/28 | **CHAPEL:** Feb. 4



## THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Pastor Chuck Olmstead



This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at [FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES](https://FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES)

# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

**READ:** Matthew 5:1-11

Matthew 5, 6 & 7 is a sermon that Jesus gave to a large crowd from the side of a mountain or hill. Jesus begins with a countercultural call to his followers to think about what it means to be blessed. Then he raises the bar, giving clear direction on many moral issues such as marriage, judging others and giving. He warns us that there are many false teachers and that the path of discipleship is not easy. To end this sermon, he tells a parable of the importance of not just hearing his words but putting them into practice. (Matthew 7:24-29)

Often, Jesus speaks through metaphor, calling us to seemingly impossible standards, convicting us of our sinfulness, to drive us to our need for forgiveness. He teaches us to abandon the worries of this world and to place our full trust in God. He encourages us to be fervent in prayer, asking our heavenly Father for what we need, teaching us the Lord's Prayer, as a framework for our petitions to God. It is convicting, inspiring, challenging, encouraging, and drives us to our need for a savior. The text above is just the introduction to the whole message. Read chapters 5-7 in their entirety and wrestle with the questions that follow.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What convicted you in Jesus' sermon? Why?
2. What encouraged you? How?

3. What surprised you in what Jesus said?
4. How does Jesus' definition of being blessed align with our world's definition? How does it align with you?
5. How does what Jesus teaches align, or not align, with the "common sense" of our world?
6. Jesus ends this sermon with a call to put his words into practice, Matthew 7:24-27. What does it mean to put Jesus' words into practice?
7. If you could send Jesus an email after his sermon, what would you say? What questions would you have?

## PRAYER

Lord, we are great sinners in need of your grace. Help us to not just hear your words but to apply them to our lives. Remove the broken places that get in the way of our full devotion to you. Take our lives, completely, fully, for your glory and your grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.