

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE



**“The Good Life”- PREACHED ON APRIL 6 & 7, 2024**

## READ

Read Matthew 5:1-13. Read it each day, perhaps in a different translation each day. (A great resource for looking at various translations is [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).)

## DISCUSS

If you are meeting as a group to discuss the sermon, have each member take time to think of a time when they received an unexpected blessing. Share these memories with each other. Then share one or two “nuggets” that stood out for you from the sermon.

## STUDY

The gospel writer Matthew was a Jewish man who wrote his gospel mainly to a Jewish audience. Therefore, he intentionally made connections between the good news of Jesus Christ and the Hebrew scriptures.

1. Jesus goes to a mountainside to preach to the crowd in front of him. Who is an important Old Testament character associated with an important message from God on a mountain? Look in your Bible to find an excerpt about this character and his experience on the mountain. What are the similarities between this character and Jesus? How is Jesus bringing something new to the people?
2. Look back at two prophets who promised a great future mountain: Isaiah 2:2-4 and Micah 4:1-4. What sticks out to you in these texts?
3. The word “blessing” Jesus used in the Beatitudes refers to the Hebrew word *ashre*. Take a look at other Scriptures which speak of aspects of *ashre*: Psalm 1:1-3 and Psalm 2:12b. Look at 1 Kings 10:1-9. Verse 8 uses the Hebrew word *ashre*. What is the picture of *ashre* in this Scripture, compared to Psalms 1 and 2?

## PRACTICE

Tim Keller said, “You are either a citizen of one world or another.” Observe yourself over the course of the week without judgment. Notice the times you find yourself aligning with the Kingdom of “Me” (or the culture around you) and the times you find yourself aligning with the Kingdom of God.