

Transition:

Jesus has been baptized, tempted, started His ministry, called the first disciples and ministered to great crowds. Now comes one of the most famous “sermons” in all of history! The Sermon on the Mount reveals to us the supreme authority of Jesus over all other teachers and drives us to faith in Him as the One who fulfills the law of God on behalf of His people.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be “poor in spirit...”? What is “the kingdom of heaven”?
2. What do you think Jesus means by the word “blessed”? (Gen 1:28, 49:28; Ex 20:11; Job 1:21; Ps 1; Matt 16:17; Rev 22:7)
3. How does the progression of the Beatitudes illustrate the effect of the gospel in someone's life?

Fundamental:

Sin/Brokenness – Beginning in Genesis 3, sin entered the world. To sin means to miss the mark. God has set the standard of how we ought to live in His law. All of us have sinned. There is only one who never did – Jesus Christ. We must acknowledge that God alone has the right to judge us and tell us how to live – and when we rebel against His commands, that is sin. But we are not supposed to stay there!

1. What are we supposed to do when we recognize our sin? (Ps 38:18; Jam 5:16; 1 John 1:9)
2. What is difference between confession and repentance? Why is it important to do both?
3. What does Jesus mean by “blessed are the meek...”? Do we ever have a reason to be proud? Why does God oppose the proud? (Ps 138:6; Pro 3:34; Jam 4:6)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Take time to examine your heart and ask the Spirit to reveal any sin in your life. When you have realized your brokenness, confess your sins to someone – your small group leader is always available.
2. Please read Matthew 6 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

People do not enjoy being confronted over sin. They will typically make excuses for living the way they do. They compare themselves to other people instead of the standard of Christ. When it comes up, be prepared to have a conversation about our pursuit of holiness.

Prayer:

Pray that sin would truly bother your people and that they would confess and repent.