

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sermon on the Mount – Session 2

Do I Really Have to Keep All the Rules?

Matthew 5:17–48

Session Focus

When Jesus teaches about God’s Law, He does not remove its importance — He reveals its true purpose. This session invites us to move beyond rule-following and explore what it means to live with hearts transformed by God’s grace.

Opening Reflection

Think about a time when you followed the rules, but your heart wasn’t really in it.

- What motivated your actions?
 - How did that affect your attitude or relationships?
 - Did outward obedience bring inner peace?
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Scripture Reading

Read **Matthew 5:17–48**.

As you read, notice how often Jesus moves from **external behavior** to **internal motivation**. Pay attention to what He says about the heart.

Key Idea

Jesus fulfills God’s Law by showing that true obedience is not just about what we **do**, but about who we are becoming on the **inside**.

PART 1: JESUS AND THE LAW

(Matthew 5:17–20)

Jesus begins by making something clear: He did not come to get rid of God’s Law, but to bring it to its full meaning and purpose.

Reflection Questions



- Why do you think people assume grace means rules no longer matter?
- What do you think Jesus means by “fulfilling” the Law?
- How is heart-level righteousness different from simply being a “good person”?

Personal Notes:

PART 2: FROM OUTER RULES TO INNER HEART

(Matthew 5:21–32)

Jesus uses familiar commandments and shows that they go deeper than outward actions. He points to anger, lust, and desire as heart issues that shape our behavior.

Reflection Questions

- Why is it easier to manage behavior than to address the heart?
- How do anger or lust begin internally before showing up outwardly?
- What might it look like to invite God into these inner places?

Personal Notes:

PART 3: LIVING OUT TRANSFORMED RIGHTEOUSNESS

(Matthew 5:33–48)

Jesus describes a new way of living marked by honesty, humility, forgiveness, and love — even toward enemies. This kind of life reflects God’s own character.

Reflection Questions

- Which of Jesus’ teachings in this section feels most challenging?
- What makes loving enemies especially difficult?
- How does this kind of righteousness point people toward God?

Personal Notes:

Personal Reflection

Take a few quiet moments to reflect honestly.

- Where do you tend to focus more on outward obedience than inner transformation?
- Are there areas where God may be inviting deeper heart change?



- What would it look like to trust God with those areas?

Personal Response:

Closing Prayer

Ask God to shape your heart, not just your actions.

Pray for openness, humility, and courage to follow Jesus from the inside out.

Optional Take-Home Practice

This week:

- Reread **Matthew 5:17–48**
 - Ask God daily: *“What are You teaching my heart?”*
 - Choose one teaching of Jesus and intentionally practice it with honesty and prayer
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Final Thought

Jesus does not invite us into a life of rule-keeping alone,
but into a life **transformed by grace** —
where obedience flows from a heart that knows Him.

