

Neighborhood Life Group Guide

Matthew: The Law & Prophets

Pastor Mike Bickley

Matthew 5:17-20

February 11, 2018



Prayer: Ask God to bless our church's youth and kid's ministries to the next generation.

Read: Take a few minutes to read and mark up the following passage on your own.

Matthew 5:17-20

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Discussion Questions

1. After reading Matthew 5:17-20, share some observations from the verses you've just read.

2. What from this week's sermon impacted you?

3. How do some of the stories, commandments, and promises found in the Torah (i.e. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) find fulfillment in Jesus Christ?

4. What are the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17? How do these help us understand the way God views righteousness?

5. When do people who know God's commands start to "relax" God's commands?

6. If Jesus says, "Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:20), then how can someone enter the kingdom of heaven?

7. Who has God put in your life that you can teach some of His commands to?

8. What is one encouragement or conviction that you will take away from Jesus' words in Matthew 5:17-20 this week?

Personal Reflection: Take a few minutes to reflect upon how you have been living out your faith for Jesus Christ this past week.

- ❖ **Word:** Have I read God's Word every day this week? What has God been teaching me?

- ❖ **Prayer:** Have I prayed to God every day this week? What have I prayed for?

- ❖ **Fellowship:** Have I gathered with other believers for fellowship and worship this week? How have I encouraged other Christians? How are other Christians encouraging me?

- ❖ **Confession:** Where am I struggling with sin, temptation, doubt, or hardship? Is there someone I need to seek forgiveness from? Is there someone I need to forgive?

- ❖ **Praise:** How have I seen God at work this week? What fruit have I seen in other people's lives?

- ❖ **Mission:** How have I been on mission this week? Who needs to hear the Gospel? Who can I invite to church? Who can I encourage or pray for this week?

Prayer: After you've spent some time in personal reflection, share one prayer request – a praise, a need, a confession, etc. Write down your group's prayer requests and commit to praying for them this week.