

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven; for so

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There are probably many more species of *Leptosyne* yet to be described.

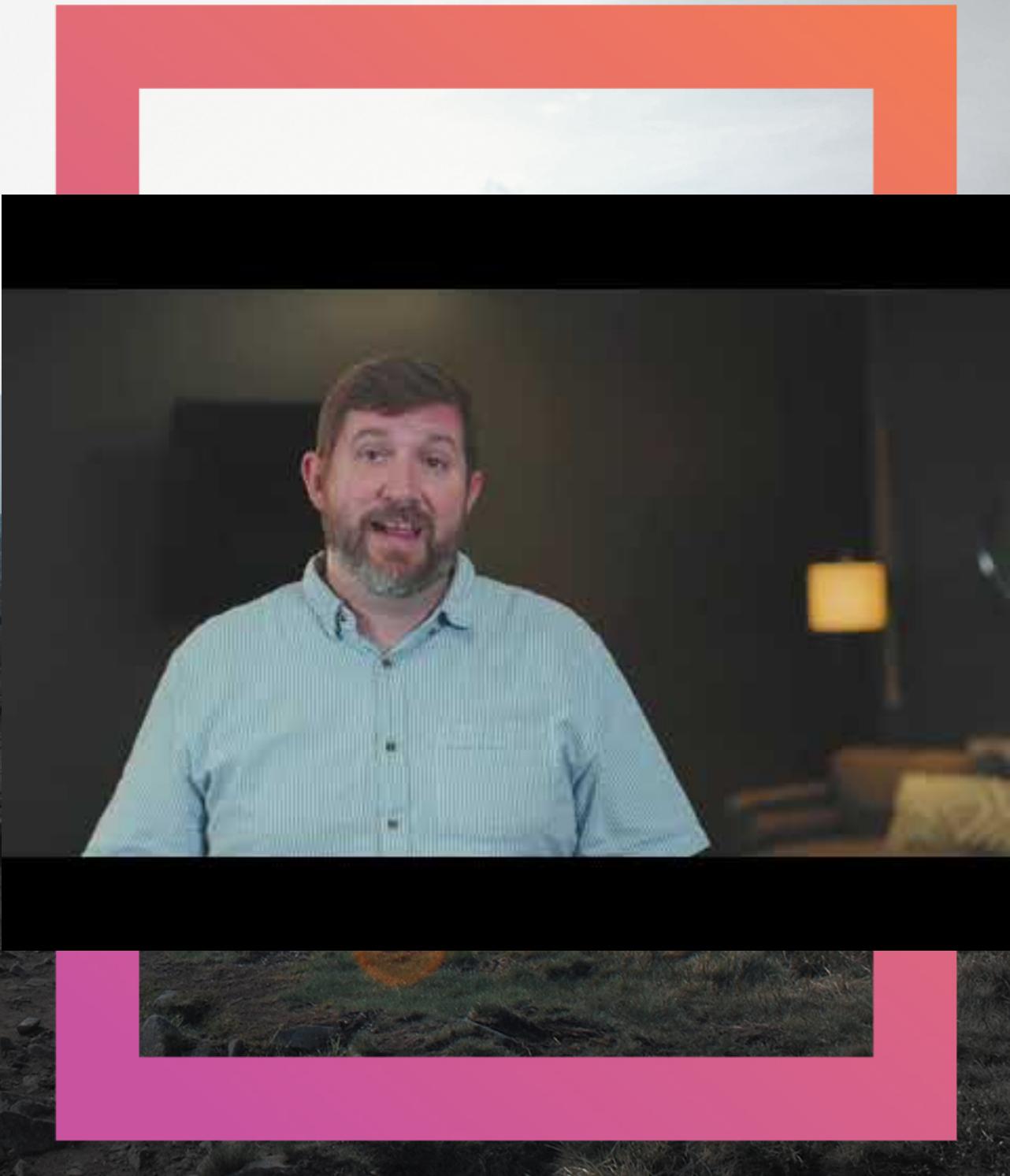
Volume 20 Number 2 Spring 2007

the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then I will declare to

BREAKTHROUGH

HOW JESUS CHANGES THE WORLD

PART 1



SESSION 1

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

DISCUSS

We hope those who participate in the study walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of amazing discussion.



BREAKTHROUGH

SESSION 1

HOW JESUS
CHANGES
THE WORLD

VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION

OPEN

WATCH SESSION 1

INTRODUCTION

What jumped out at you from the message this Sunday? What made you really think about your relationship with Christ?

How is temptation a struggle for us all?

Have you had specific times during which temptation was more of a problem?

READ

Read Matthew 4:1-10

How was the Holy Spirit involved in the baptism of Jesus and his temptation in the wilderness?

The very same Spirit of God who comes upon Jesus at the baptism leads him out to the desert. Jesus led by the Spirit (same Spirit who has just come upon him at the declaration of his sonship) leads him into the desert for the precise purpose of being tempted.

What is temptation? How would you describe it simply to a child or someone who isn't a Christian?

First, Temptation is the desire to do something—probably appealing—which we know we shouldn't. Second, temptation is a distraction from God's plan.

Is being tempted a sin?

We know that it is not a sin to be tempted because Jesus was tempted and we know that he never committed a sin.

Reading verses 3-9 again, what are the three key ways in which the devil tempted Jesus?

The image shows a wide-angle view of a natural landscape. In the foreground, there's a field of dry, yellowish-brown grass. Beyond it, several low, rounded hills or mountains are visible against a bright blue sky. The lighting suggests a sunny day with some light clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and inspiring.

BREAKTHROUGH

SESSION 1

HOW JESUS CHANGES THE WORLD

VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION

1. ‘...tell these stones to become bread.’ He’s taking the physical hunger and using that to question if God will really provide.
 2. ‘...throw yourself down.’ He’s taking the need of security and questioning if God will really protect.
 3. ‘...bow down and worship me. He’s taking the need for power, and achievement and questioning if God really rules.

How did Jesus respond to each of the temptations?

In each case, Jesus responded with the words of His father! He knew that Jesus would provide and protect Him.

LAST WORD

What is at the heart of each of these temptations?

At the heart of the Devil's temptation of Jesus was His resolve and His trust in God. It is the same with us.

How do we see the same type of temptations manifest in our lives?

The enemy wants to take us away from the cross! He tried to distract Jesus from his heavenly mission and in the same way, our enemy will try to take us away from God's mission. We must resolve to stay on course no matter what! And, when temptation comes our way we must refute it with the only thing that will; the words of our father.



The background of the magazine cover features a wide-angle photograph of a rugged, hilly terrain. The foreground shows dark, grassy slopes leading up to a range of mountains in the distance. The sky is a vibrant, clear blue with a few wispy white clouds. Overlaid on the bottom half of the image is a large, bold title 'BREAKTHROUGH' in white, with 'SESSION 1' below it in a slightly smaller font. The entire title is set against a solid black rectangular background. On the right side of the cover, there are several vertical columns of text in white, framed by red borders. At the very bottom right corner, there is a small logo for 'WEEKEND'. The overall composition is clean and modern, with a focus on the natural beauty of the landscape.

BREAKTHROUGH

SESSION 1

HOW JESUS CHANGES THE WORLD

VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION

BIG IDEA

We've got to decide as individuals and a church what sort of Christians we're going to be. Casual followers, happy to tip our hat to God when it suits us. Or committed followers of Jesus who are ready to give everything for the one who left his father in heaven, gave up all riches, and gave his everything on the cross. Rescuing others through Jesus is God's great plan and as God's people, aren't we called to share in this?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES Matthew 4:1-10

PERSONAL REFLECTION

How can we confront temptation?

How might we better equip ourselves with the Word of God so that we are ready to respond in the face of temptation?

Spend some time specifically praying for spiritual protection





SESSION 2

READ

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WATCH

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DISCUSS

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BREAKTHROUGH

SESSION 2

HOW JESUS CHANGES THE WORLD

THE MASTER'S PLAN

OPEN

WATCH SESSION 2

INTRODUCTION

What jumped out at you from the message this Sunday? What made you really think about your relationship with Christ?

What do you think is the difference between being just a 'fan' rather than a 'follower' of Jesus?

Would you describe yourself more of a fan or follower of Jesus? Why?

READ

Read Matthew 4:18-20

What is different about the call of Jesus?

Between the account of the calling of the first four disciples (Peter and Andrew; James and John) and a few verses later, news has spread all over Syria and large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and the region across the Jordan are coming to see Jesus.

Who does Jesus call in the passage? Why is it so significant that he does the calling?

In the first century the idea of disciples was very common. For example, Rabbis would have had disciples, but what's different about Jesus' followers is that normally people would shop around and decide if they wanted to follow someone. But here, Jesus chooses them.

What impresses you most about the response of the disciples? What is so remarkable about this?

"Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Jesus said, and at once they left their nets and followed him. The tone with which Jesus calls has an immediate sense. And we see



BREAKTHROUGH

SESSION 2

HOW JESUS CHANGES THE WORLD

THE MASTER'S PLAN

that reflected in their response - they immediately leave what they're doing and follow Jesus.

What was required of the disciples to follow Jesus? How about us?

Following Jesus involves a break with old loyalties. What that looks like for each person will vary, but at the heart of responding to the call will be a radical reorientation of our individual priorities.

How is following Jesus such a radical call?

Jesus isn't asking for casual followers like you would follow your favorite celebrity on Instagram or like a cause on Facebook. A casual follower of Jesus is someone who wants to be close enough to Jesus to get the benefits, but not so close to require a sacrifice.

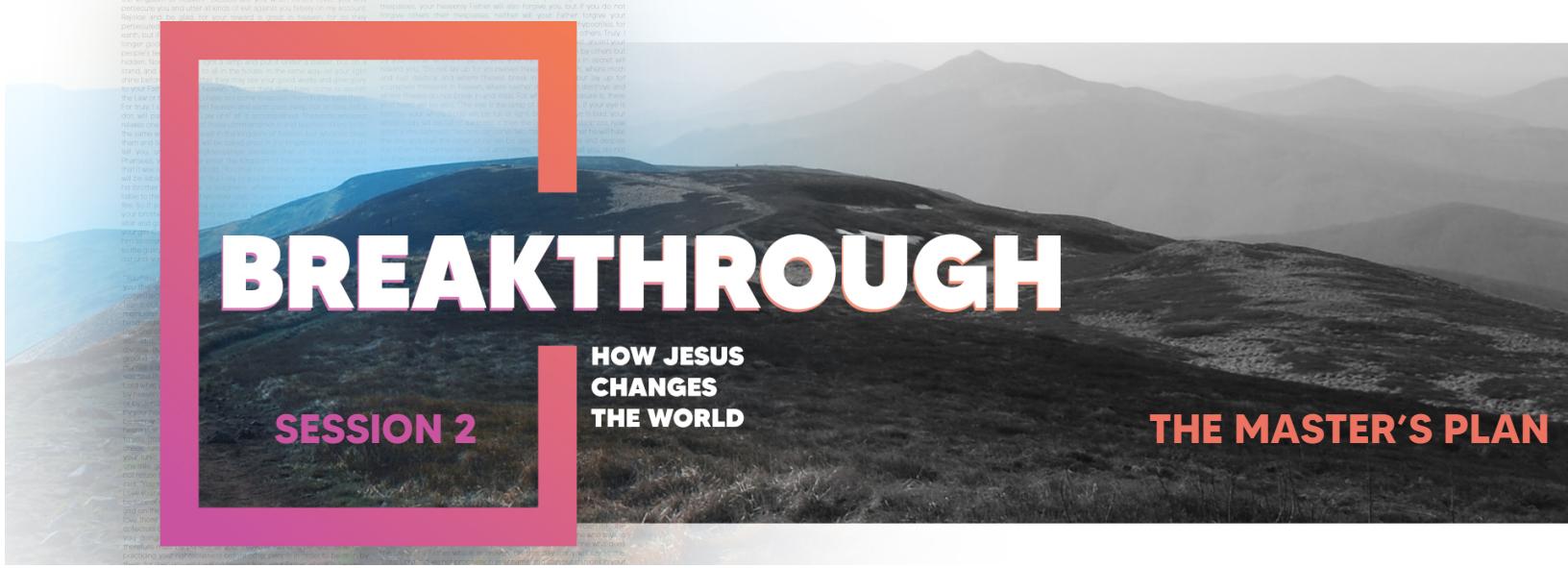
LAST WORD

Can you think of an example of a time in which you had to reorientate your priorities for Jesus?

What does Jesus mean by being made into ‘fishers of men’? What does that look like in our lives?

Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." I will transform you. I will release you and enable you to take part in the most amazing endeavor that the world has ever known.





BREAKTHROUGH

SESSION 2

HOW JESUS CHANGES THE WORLD

THE MASTER'S PLAN

BIG IDEA

Day by day as we all face temptations, we're facing critical decision points in our lives which may be different from Jesus, but have the same point. They're not just trying to get us to sin, but they're trying to lead us and others away from the glorious mission given to each and everyone of us.

BIBLE STUDY NOTES **Matthew 4:18-20**

PERSONAL REFLECTION

In what ways does God transform us when we follow him?

How can we all help to enable our relationship with God to flourish?

How is it that we are able to follow Jesus?





SESSION 3

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

WATCH

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DISCUSS

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BREAKTHROUGH

SESSION 3

HOW JESUS CHANGES THE WORLD

THE BEATITUDES

OPEN

WATCH SESSION 3

INTRODUCTION

What jumped out at you from the message this Sunday? What made you really think about your relationship with Christ?

Every one of us desires to live “The Good Life.” This life consists of success, comfort, prosperity, and many others. If you were to define “The Good Life,” the life you desired, what would that look like?

None of these dreams, goals, or aspirations are bad things, but more often than not, our idea of “the good life” is defined by the world around us and not necessarily the creator of the world. If you want to be honest, what sources does your “Good Life” come from?

As we look at the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus will be redefining “The Good Life,” and helping us see how to radically live as God’s people in the world.

READ

Read Matthew 5:1-12

For the sake of our time together, let's split up the Beatitudes into two sections. The first four having a vertical emphasis and the last five having a horizontal emphasis. Meaning, the first FOUR (v.3-6) deal with our relationship with the Lord and the last FIVE (v.7-12) our relationship with others.

Before we jump in, let's define “Blessed.” What does it mean to be blessed?

To be blessed means to find favor from God; to be made holy; to find ultimate happiness; to be made complete or whole. In these verses, Jesus is describing attributes of a believer. These blessings are NOT what saves us or helps us enter into heaven, but ultimately are gifts from God as he molds us, shapes us, and transforms us into the image of His son! These characteristics are results of God's grace in our lives!



BREAKTHROUGH

SESSION 3

HOW JESUS CHANGES THE WORLD

THE BEATITUDES

Discuss as a group how the first four beatitudes, v. 3-6, deal with our relationship with the Lord:

Each of these beatitudes deals with a total reliance on God. Recognizing our sin, recognizing that we are not in control, and ultimately our need for the Lord in all of life! These deal with our standing before God. By his grace we are brought into his kingdom, given comfort, inherit the earth, and are ultimately satisfied in him!

Now, lets look at the next five, v. 7-12, and discuss how they deal with our relationships with others:

These center on how we live with others, being merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, being persecuted. We understand our relationship with the Lord, and now this is the life we are called to live. Bringing the good life to the world, the life that honors God, loves his creation, and seeks to bring peace. This will never be easy, it will not always be comfortable, but it says that even if persecuted for righteousness, we must rejoice and be glad!

Which one of these beatitudes is often the easiest for you? Why?

Which of these beatitudes seems to be the hardest to accomplish in your life? Why?

LAST WORD

Jesus begins this sermon laying a foundation for what the good life looks like in the eyes of the Lord. The beatitudes are radical in the face of what we think life should be. We were created for God, but because of sin, the world tells us we were created for only ourselves. These verses challenge that notion.

How would our lives change if we began embracing the beatitudes more than we currently do?

The Kingdom of Heaven: "Blessed are you which persecute you; for so they persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven; for so they persecuted

trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Then Jesus said to them, "Hypocrites, for

BREAKTHROUGH

SESSION 3

HOW JESUS CHANGES THE WORLD

THE BEATITUDES

BIG IDEA

As Jesus starts the Sermon on the Mount, he begins to lay the foundations of a radical way of living, a counter cultural outlook on life. In the beatitudes, Jesus reminds us that our salvation is not based on how we live or what we do, but instead on God's grace in our lives. These qualities he lists are not simply good things we should do, but instead are a response to the grace God shows us in salvation. Jesus unpacks how God defines "the good life," turning our way of living in the world upside down.

BIBLE STUDY NOTES Matthew 5:1-12

PERSONAL REFLECTION

What does it mean to be blessed by God?

How does my life currently reflect the way God intended our lives to be lived?





SESSION 4

READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

WATCH

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DISCUSS

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BREAKTHROUGH

SESSION 4

HOW JESUS CHANGES THE WORLD

BEING SALT AND LIGHT

OPEN

WATCH SESSION 4

INTRODUCTION

What jumped out at you from the message this Sunday? What made you really think about your relationship with Christ?

We all have people in our lives that are extremely influential to us: a friend, a boss, a family member, a pastor, a celebrity, etc. Who is someone in your life that you would consider influential? What gives them influence? What makes them different than others?

In our study today, we will see that as believers we are called to be influencers. We are called to influence the world around us to see God!

READ

READ: Matthew 5:13-16

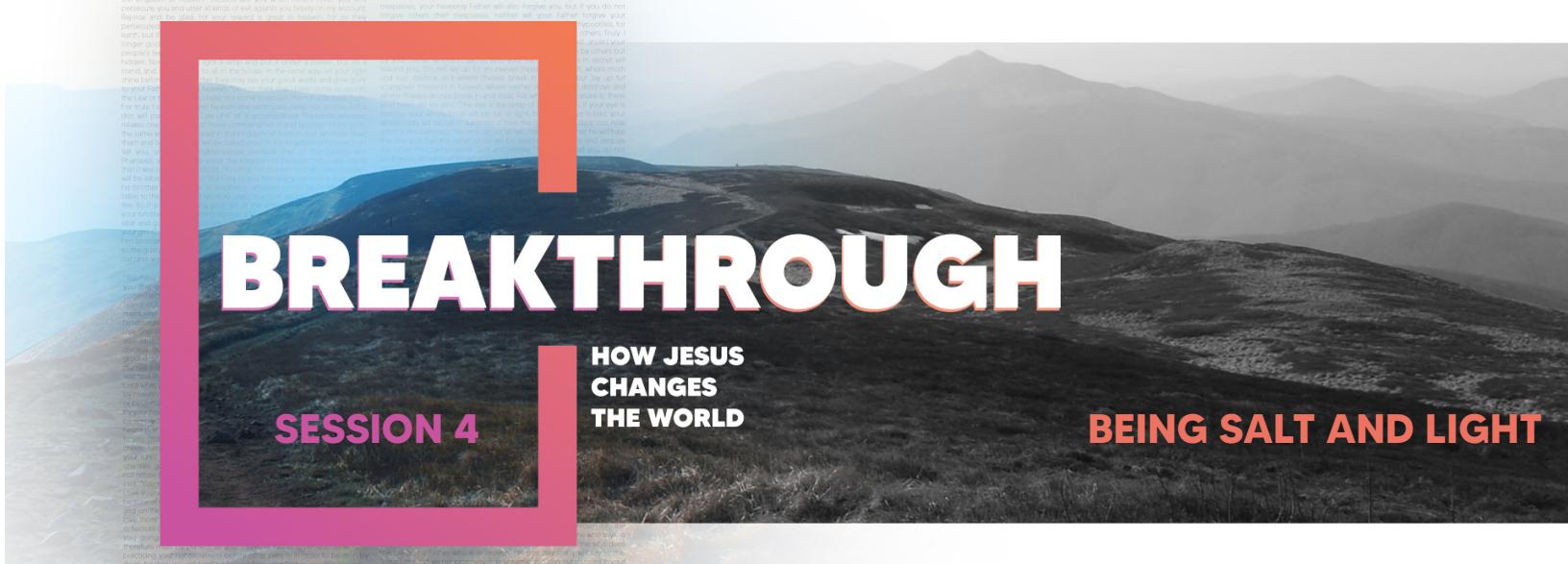
Last week we took a look at the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12, how do those relate to this passage about being salt and light?

The Beatitudes marked the blessings of the Christian. They showed us the 'good life,' the life that understands our sin, understands who God is, and understands how we are to live differently in the world. The Beatitudes showed us how to truly flourish in the life God created for us.

Jesus says to his followers, "you are the salt of the earth," reminding them of their new status in Christ. What are ways that we can be salt to those around us?

A few general ways to be salt: We bring flavor by enhancing others taste for God as we model the beatitudes; we help preserve the fallen world, standing against evil and standing for what is right; we bring healing, showing the love of Christ to others in our lives.

Jesus also tells his followers, "you are the light of the world," reminding them that their light doesn't come from themselves but from the Lord (John 1:9). What are ways we can be the light to those around us?



BREAKTHROUGH

SESSION 4

HOW JESUS CHANGES THE WORLD

BEING SALT AND LIGHT

We can be the light by exposing darkness in the world and our own lives. We can illuminate the path to Jesus because it's a path we have been down already. We stand out like a city on a hill because of how we live our lives for God's glory!

Let's look real quick at 1 Peter 2:11-12. How does Matthew 5:16 and 1 Peter 2:12 relate to one another?

Both of these passages describe the life of believers in Christ. We are to look different than the world around us and they are a reminder of how the world should see us.. that is reflecting God!

In 1 Peter 2:11, he calls the believers “sojourners.” What significance was that for these people, but also what does it mean for us today?

A sojourner is someone who is only a temporary resident, who is simply passing through. Peter calls believers sojourners as an encouragement, a reminder that this is not our home. The world is against us as believers in Christ, but the reminder is it is only temporary.

Looking back at Matthew 5:16, what are the good works that others are to see in our lives?

In short, the Beatitudes! We should be peacemakers, we strive for righteousness, merciful, loving to those around us, honoring God, distinguishing right from wrong, loving those who are hard to love, showing forgiveness to those who don't seem to deserve it. The list could go on, but ultimate people should see God in how we live.

LAST WORD

What message is your life communicating to others right now?





BREAKTHROUGH

SESSION 4

HOW JESUS CHANGES THE WORLD

BEING SALT AND LIGHT

BIG IDEA

Some of us may look at our lives and say we don't have any influence on others, but we actually do! Every single day, our decisions affect others. Sometimes those decisions we make in our lives can point people to Jesus but sometimes they point people away. As believers, and especially influencers who point people to Jesus, we are by no means perfect people, but we do understand our calling, our identity, and our hope for salvation in Jesus Christ!

BIBLE STUDY NOTES Matthew 5:13-16

PERSONAL REFLECTION

What in your life tells the outside world that you are a follower of Jesus?

How can we better serve the world around us by being the salt of the earth and the light of the world?

