Home CHURCH

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 1 of The Way

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Jesus doesn't just call us to follow Him. He calls us to live differently. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus describes the character of those who belong to His Kingdom and reminds us that our lives should reflect His presence in the world.

1. **Recognize Your Need for God** (Matthew 5:1–4; Isaiah 66:2; John 16:8)
   - The way of Jesus begins when we recognize that we cannot do life or faith on our own.

   Discuss:
   - *What does it look like to be poor in spirit in a culture that encourages independence and self-sufficiency?*
   - *Is there an area of your life where you need to stop relying on yourself and recognize your need for God?*

2. **Develop the Character of the Kingdom** (Matthew 5:5–9; Romans 5:1)
   - Jesus describes Kingdom character through meekness, a hunger and thirst for righteousness, mercy, purity of heart, and peacemaking. These are not simply good behaviors to imitate. They are qualities God desires to develop in us as we follow Him.

   Discuss:
   - *Which of these characteristics comes most naturally to you? Which one challenges you the most?*
   - *What is the difference between being a peacekeeper and being a peacemaker?*

3. **Stay Faithful When It Costs You** (Matthew 5:10–12)
   - Jesus makes it clear that following Him does not guarantee an easy life. When we choose righteousness over comfort or obedience over acceptance, we are walking the same path as those who faithfully followed God before us.

   Discuss:
   - *Where might you be tempted to compromise your faith in order to gain approval or avoid conflict?*
   - *How does keeping an eternal perspective help you remain faithful when following Jesus is difficult?*

4. **Live as Salt and Light** (Matthew 5:13–16)
    - Jesus calls us to live visibly different lives, not for recognition or personal glory, but so others can see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven.

Discuss:

- *Are there places or relationships where you find it difficult to let your faith be visible? What holds you back?*
- *If someone observed your life this week, what might they see that points them toward Jesus?*