



PART 2 OF 3: MISINFORMED  
SUMMER ON THE MOUNT

**Group Discussion Guide**

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# Summer on the Mount: Misinformed Group Discussion Guide

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## Series Overview

Jesus interpreted six important Old Testament laws for His people from the perspective of the new life He came to give. Jesus emphasized the importance of attitudes and intents of the heart rather than simply external action. He was not looking for more righteous deeds through human effort. Instead, Jesus was looking for more righteous **hearts** by divine grace.

## Purpose of This Guide

The primary purpose of this group guide is to reinforce and deepen the lessons of the Grace Church message series: **Summer on the Mount: Misinformed**.

# You Heard / I Say, Murder

## Scripture: Matthew 5:21-26

- 21 *"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'*
- 22 *But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.*
- 23 *Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,*
- 24 *leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*
- 25 *Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.*
- 26 *Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.* (NKJV)

## Icebreaker: Anger Hurts

As a group, think of words to describe what anger does to certain parts of your body.

muscles
stomach
teeth
body temperature
skin

## Discussion Questions

- Which of the Beatitudes ([Mat 5:1-12](#)) express the values Jesus wants us to take regarding murder? What is the benefit to us if we do as Jesus wants?

- When we begin to get angry, what could we do to keep anger from getting out of control (**Psa 4:4-5**, **Jas 1:19**, **Eph 4:31**)?
- Are you angry about the same things that make God angry? How do you know what angers God (**Psa 7:11** and **Mark 3:5**)?
- What does Jesus say happens to our relationship with God when we are angry with someone else (**Mat 5:23-24**)?
- In which area of your life are you most prone to struggle with anger? What are some things you can do to begin to transform that area of your life?

### Dig a Little Deeper: Type of Anger

What type of anger is acceptable and what type is not acceptable? Consider the focus of your anger. Is it against people or against wrongdoing? Are you angry because you are personally offended or because of an offense against God (**Eph 4:26**, **Pro 16:32**, **Eph 4:31**)?

<i>acceptable anger</i>	<i>unacceptable anger</i>

### Application Exercise: Watch for Anger

During the coming week, note any time you begin to feel angry. As soon as you notice, begin to pray for God to guide your feelings, thoughts, and actions.

# You Heard / I Say, Adultery

## Scripture: Matthew 5:27-30

27 *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’*

28 *But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

29 *If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.*

30 *And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. (NKJV)*

## Icebreaker: The Apple

- What about the apple did Eve find tempting ([Gen 3:6](#))?
- How does Eve’s temptation relate to temptations we face in our culture today?

## Discussion Questions

- Which of the **Beatitudes** ([Mat 5:1-12](#)) express the values Jesus wants us to take regarding adultery? What is the benefit to us if we do as Jesus wants?
- Why do you think some people focus on the letter of the law rather than the spirit of the law ([Mat 5:28](#))?
- What did Jesus say to emphasize the seriousness of sinful thoughts ([Mat 5:29-30](#))?

- At what point does looking become lust? What is the origin of lust (**Mat 15:19** and **Pro 6:25**)?
- In what ways do you protect yourself from being in situations that could promote lust (**Pro 7:4-5**)?
- How can you be proactive in avoiding adultery (**Pro 5:15**)?

### **Dig a Little Deeper: Eye and Hand**

- The **eye** is a gate through which temptation comes (**Mat 6:22-23**). What can you do to prevent your eye from seeing things that promote lust?
- The **hand** is the tool by which temptation moves from plan to implementation (**Mark 9:43**). What limits can you place on your activities to prevent temptation from leading to sin?

### **Application Exercise: Your Activities**

During the coming week, evaluate your activities. Are there any that stimulate impure thoughts? What alternative activities will you use as replacements?

# You Heard / I Say, Divorce

## Scripture: Matthew 5:31-32

31 *“Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’*

32 *But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery. (NKJV)*

## Icebreaker: Cultural Effect on Commitment

Discuss how the idea of commitment has changed in our culture over the last several decades.

- What factors have contributed to a changed view of commitment?
- In what ways does our culture support or undermine commitment in marriage?

## Discussion Questions

- Which of the **Beatitudes** (**Mat 5:1-12**) express the values Jesus wants us to take regarding divorce? What is the benefit to us if we do as Jesus wants?
- Considering **2Corinthians 6:14-15**, what advice could you give a single person that would reduce his or her likelihood of getting a divorce once married?
- If you are experiencing tension and disagreements in your marriage, what actions could you take to prevent them from damaging your relationship with God (**Mat 5:23-26**)?
- In what ways can initiating a divorce interfere with your relationship with God (**Mal 2:10-16**)?

- Discuss how **Ephesians 5:25-33** helps explain why Jesus stated that divorce can cause adultery (**Mat 5:32**).
- What do the following verses suggest you remember if your spouse leaves you?

**Isa 54:5-6**

**Rom 5:8**

**Psa 31:7**

**Psa 147:3**

### **Dig a Little Deeper: Restoring Relationships**

If you have made mistakes in your marriage or other relationships, what do these verses say about restoring your relationship with God and others?

**1John 1:9**

**Jas 5:16**

### **Application Exercise: See as God Sees**

When you see as God sees, you will do as God says. During the next week, take time to assess your determination to see issues as God sees them.

# You Heard / I Say, Oaths

## Scripture: Matthew 5:33-37

33 *“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’*

34 *But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne;*

35 *nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.*

36 *Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black.*

37 *But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one. (NKJV)*

## Icebreaker: Promise Keeper

Of the people you know, who is most likely to keep a promise? Give an example of the effort he or she made to keep a promise to you.

## Discussion Questions

- Which of the **Beatitudes** ([Mat 5:1-12](#)) express the values Jesus wants us to take regarding oaths? What is the benefit to us if we do as Jesus wants?
- If you have a relationship with someone who is not always truthful, how does that affect the relationship?
- Discuss how not always doing what you say you will do can cause an incremental loss of integrity ([Mat 5:37](#)).
- In what ways can exaggerating, misleading, or flattery cause problems ([Zech 8:17](#))?

- If you make a promise, what amount of effort and sacrifice will you make to honor your promise (**Pro 20:25**)?
  - ▶ to yourself (diet, time with loved ones, Bible reading)
  - ▶ to your friends
  - ▶ to your spouse
  - ▶ to God
  
- Have you known someone who didn't exactly lie, but you knew you couldn't really count on his word? Perhaps he overcommitted, forgot the promise, or had an unexpected conflict. How did the pattern of excuses affect your relationship (**Ecc 5:2-7**)?

### **Dig a Little Deeper: Truthfulness**

What do the following verses say about truthfulness?

<b>Jas 5:12</b>
<b>Psa 51:6</b>
<b>Pro 6:16-19</b>
<b>Pro 12:22</b>
<b>Col 3:9</b>

### **Application Exercise: Count the Cost**

During the next week, each time before you make a promise or commitment, pause to count the cost.

- Given your other commitments, how realistic is it for you to be able to honor the new commitment or promise?
- How much effort and sacrifice are you willing to make to honor the new commitment or promise?
- Will making this new commitment or promise endanger any of your existing commitments or promises?

# You Heard / I Say, Revenge

## Scripture: Matthew 5:38-42

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.

41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. (NKJV)

## Icebreaker: Forgiving

- Other than Christ, who do you look up to as an example of a forgiving person?
- Do you find it easier to ask for forgiveness or to forgive someone?

## Discussion Questions

- Which of the **Beatitudes** ([Mat 5:1-12](#)) express the values Jesus wants us to take regarding revenge? What is the benefit to us if we do as Jesus wants?
- What are some ways to avoid getting into conflict with others ([Rom 12:18](#) and [1Pet 4:8](#))?
- Think of a time when someone hurt you.
  - ▶ How would you describe that person?
  - ▶ Is it ever right to hurt them back?
  - ▶ If you do hurt people back, do you become like them?
  - ▶ Are there times when it is better to accept the injury rather than strike back ([1Cor 6:7](#) and [Heb 10:32-34](#))?
- What are some examples of ways you could go the extra mile ([Mat 5:41](#)) to reflect Christ in situations where people are demanding things of you?

- What can you do to leave revenge to God and avoid taking things into your own hands?
  - ▶ **Psa 28:4**
  - ▶ **1The 5:15**
  - ▶ **2The 1:6-10**
  
- What are reasons you may want to forgive the person who wronged you?
  - ▶ **Luke 23:34**
  - ▶ **Pro 25:21-22**
  - ▶ **Rom 12:19-21**

## **Dig a Little Deeper**

Meditate on the following:

- **1Peter 2:21-23**
- **1Peter 3:9**

## **Application Exercise: Forgiveness**

During the next week:

- Make a list of those you need to ask to forgive you. First ask God to forgive you. Then ask each person on your list to forgive you.
- Make a list of those you need to forgive for something they have done to you. First ask God to help you forgive each person. Then forgive each person.

# You Heard / I Say, Hate

## Scripture: Matthew 5:43-48

43 *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’*

44 *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,*

45 *that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

46 *For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?*

47 *And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?*

48 *Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. (NKJV)*

## Icebreaker: Show the Love

- How can you tell if a person loves you? What kind of behaviors would give you the impression that a person loves you?
- What kinds of behaviors do you demonstrate to other people to let them know that you love them?

## Discussion Questions

- Which of the **Beatitudes** ([Mat 5:1-12](#)) express the values Jesus wants us to take regarding hate toward enemies? What is the benefit to us if we do as Jesus wants?
- According to what Jesus said in [Matthew 5:43-45](#), how can you become a true child of God?
- We sometimes use the expression, “Hate the sin, not the sinner.” Discuss how you can show that you hate the sin, but love the sinner in your everyday life ([Psa 119:104](#) and [Pro 8:13](#)).
- In what way does remembering your failings help you to be patient with your enemies ([Titus 3:2-3](#))?

- Consider **Matthew 5:48** as an ultimate challenge. Being “perfect” means to be mature or complete in Christ. What would it take for a person to meet that ultimate challenge?

## **Dig a Little Deeper**

Meditate on **Romans 12:19-21**.

## **Application Exercise: Return Good for Evil**

When we pray for our enemies, we find it easier to love them. It takes the “poison” out of our attitudes. Love is a mark of maturity. It is God-like (**Mat 5:45**). Think about a person who is an enemy (has treated you poorly). Return good for evil as an investment of love. Pray for the spiritual welfare of that person.



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