



Matthew 5

a better kingdom

PREPARATION BEFORE THE GROUP MEETS:

The aim of this preparation is to encourage good & prayerful observation of the text of God's word and the joyful experience of discovering its truth.

Pray & read Matthew chapter 5

What stands out in this reading?

What puzzles you about this reading?

How does this reading make you **feel**?

What do you **think** in response to this reading?

What will you **do** in response to this reading?

When you meet together – pray for understanding and a humble heart

read & discuss Matthew 5.1-12 (the following questions could help lead the discussion)

What kind of citizens belong in the kingdom of Jesus?

Do you think a kingdom full of these citizens would be a better kingdom than you now experience? Why?

Where do we get a taste now of what this kingdom will one day be like?

From your general Bible knowledge how is Jesus the *exemplar par excellence* of a good citizen?

What blessings are part of the kingdom of Jesus?

How do you experience these blessings now?

When and where do you expect to receive in full the blessings of the kingdom of Jesus?

read & discuss Matt 5.13-48; Col 4.5-6 (the following questions could help lead the discussion)

Who is glorified by the speaking and doing of the citizens of the kingdom of Jesus? (v16)

How are the Colossians encouraged to be 'salt' and 'light'? How can you put that into practice? (Col 4.5-6)

Who fulfils the law? Whose righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees? What do you think that means for us? (v17-20)

Jesus taps into some big-ticket items from Israel's Law. In what ways does Jesus shift the emphasis from an external righteousness that seeks to keep the law to an internal (heart) righteousness that seeks to love others? Why do you think he does that?

Discuss how you can shift your speaking and doing to be less legal and more loving: Do you think by doing that people will be more likely to glorify the Father in heaven?

PRAY! that you'll each grow to maturity through what you've just studied. Pray for the upcoming election in NSW. Pray for Heather Hayes as she begins her role with AFES (Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students) at CSU – her planning time with AFES staff and local student committee, new students arriving in Albury, the Hayes family for routines and joy, & thank God for financial and prayerful supporters, and for a few more partners in 2023.