

2026 DEVOTIONALS | WEEK 30

THE SERMON'S VISION

Kingdom Life in the Biblical Story

AN INTERACTIVE PERSONAL STUDY WORKBOOK

MATTHEW 5-7 | PSALMS 119 & 19 | COLOSSIANS 3 | PSALM 15

THE KING SPEAKS. THE WORD FORMS.
THE SPIRIT RENEWS.

THE CRUCIBLE'S FIRE

BIBLICALLY FAITHFUL RESOURCES FOR LIFE IN THE KINGDOM



BEGIN HERE

Your Week 30 Field Guide

Read each primary passage before beginning its study. This workbook is designed for guided personal study after the Week 30 devotionals. Plan about 25-35 minutes per day.

CENTRAL TRUTH

Jesus does not merely give His people better rules. He announces God's reign, exposes the heart, fulfills Israel's hopes, forms a renewed people, and teaches them to live now in anticipation of the new creation.

How to Use This Workbook

1 Read

Begin with the assigned passage in your Bible. Keep the text open while you work.

2 Work the Text

Observe before interpreting. Trace the theme through the biblical story.

3 Respond

Name one faithful practice and entrust your response to the Lord in prayer.

The Five-Day Journey

01	The Story	Matthew 5-7	Receive the authority of the King
02	The Worldview	Psalms 119:1-16	Be formed by the King's Word
03	The Heart	Psalms 19	Welcome redeeming exposure
04	The Way	Colossians 3	Live from your identity in Christ
05	Worship & Response	Psalms 15	Bring worship and conduct together

THE WEEK IN CONTEXT

Follow the Story from Creation to New Creation

Use this framework throughout the week. Each day asks how Jesus restores God's intention for humanity and forms a people who live under His reign.

1

Creation

God creates humanity in His image to live under His good rule.

2

Fall

Human beings reject God's wisdom and attempt to define good and evil for themselves.

3

Covenant & Israel

God forms a people through whom His character and purposes are to be displayed.

4

Christ

Jesus, the faithful King and true image of God, fulfills Israel's calling and reveals kingdom life.

5

Spirit-Filled Church

Those united with Christ are renewed from within and formed into a distinct people.

6

New Creation

God's reign will be fully revealed. His people will dwell with Him in righteousness and peace.

Weekly Study Question

How does life under Jesus' authority restore God's intention for humanity and prepare His people for life in the new creation?

DAY 1 | THE STORY

When the King Speaks

PRIMARY READING
Matthew 5-7**SUPPORTING TEXTS**Exodus 19:1-6; Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Isaiah 2:1-4;
Matthew 4:17-25; 28:18-20

Place in the Biblical Story

At Sinai, God formed Israel as His covenant people and gave them His instruction. In Matthew, Jesus goes up a mountain and teaches His disciples. The setting recalls Sinai, but Jesus is not merely another lawgiver. He speaks with His own authority, reveals the righteousness toward which the Law and Prophets pointed, and forms a people who reflect their Father's character.

Read and Observe

1. Who is present when Jesus begins teaching in Matthew 5:1-2?

2. What kinds of people are called blessed in Matthew 5:3-12?

3. What repeated contrast appears in Matthew 5:21-48?

4. Where does Jesus address hidden motives rather than outward actions?

5. What contrast concludes the sermon in Matthew 7:24-27?

6. What astonishes the crowds in Matthew 7:28-29?

Interpretive guardrail: Jesus does not reject the Old Testament. He authoritatively reveals the righteousness toward which the Law and Prophets were pointing.

INTERPRET AND RESPOND

Authority That Reaches the Heart

1 The King Speaks

Jesus' words carry authority. He is not simply offering one moral opinion among many.

2 The Heart Is Exposed

Anger, lust, hypocrisy, anxiety, and judgment reveal that God's reign reaches motives and desires.

3 Hearing and Doing

Both builders hear. The stable life is built by trusting Jesus enough to obey Him.

Trace the Theme

Creation & Fall	Humanity was made for God's wise rule but chose independent moral authority.
Sinai & Prophets	God instructed Israel, while the prophets anticipated the nations learning His ways.
Christ	Jesus speaks as the authoritative King and calls people to follow Him.
Church & New Creation	Disciples teach obedience now as they await life fully under God's reign.

Where might you admire Jesus' teaching without practicing it? Name one specific act of obedience that would show trust in His authority.

SUMMARY

Kingdom life begins by receiving Jesus not merely as an adviser, but as the authoritative King whose words define reality.

DAY 2 | THE WORLDVIEW

Shaped by the Word

PRIMARY READING
Psalms 119:1-16**SUPPORTING TEXTS**Genesis 1:1-3; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 1:7-9; Jeremiah 31:31-34;
Matthew 4:1-11; Romans 12:1-2

Place in the Biblical Story

God creates through His word, reveals His will through His instruction, and forms His people by teaching them His ways. The fall begins with distrust of God's word. Jeremiah later promises a renewed covenant in which God's instruction will be written on the heart. Jesus embodies perfect trust in the Father's word, and those who belong to Him are renewed in their thinking.

Read and Observe

1. What actions does the psalmist associate with a blessed life?

2. Which verbs describe the psalmist's relationship with God's word?

3. Where does the psalmist acknowledge dependence upon God?

4. What is treasured in the heart, and for what purpose?

5. What relationship do you see between delight, meditation, memory, and obedience?

Interpretive guardrail: Treasuring Scripture is more than exposure or information. It includes valuing, remembering, returning to, and obeying God's Word in dependence on His grace.

INTERPRET AND PRACTICE

Which Voice Will Form You?

Formation is unavoidable. Every person is shaped by voices, stories, habits, fears, ambitions, and communities. The question is not whether you will be formed, but what will form you.

Formation Map

Voice or Influence	What It Tells Me	Fruit It Produces	Kingdom Practice

Formation Exercise

Choose one saying of Jesus from Matthew 5-7 and write it in your own words.

What does this saying reveal about God's kingdom?

What desire or assumption does it challenge?

In what specific situation do you need to remember it?

SUMMARY

Kingdom citizens learn to see reality through the words of the King rather than through unstable voices competing for their allegiance.

DAY 3 | THE HEART

Search What I Cannot See

PRIMARY READING
Psalm 19
SUPPORTING TEXTS

Genesis 3:6-13; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Psalm 139:23-24; Matthew 5:21-30;
 Hebrews 4:12-13; 1 John 1:5-9

Place in the Biblical Story

Creation declares God's glory, while God's instruction reveals His will and exposes the human heart. Since the fall, people have hidden, blamed, and misunderstood their own motives. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus moves from visible actions to inward anger, lust, hypocrisy, anxiety, and judgment. God's kingdom reaches the hidden person, not merely the public reputation.

Read and Observe

1. What does creation communicate in Psalm 19:1-6?

2. How is God's instruction described in verses 7-9?

3. What effects does God's instruction produce?

4. What change occurs in the psalmist's focus beginning in verse 12?

5. What kinds of sins does the psalmist identify?

6. How does he describe God in the final verse?

Interpretive guardrail: Psalm 19 is not an invitation to endless self-accusation. David examines himself before the Lord whom he calls his Rock and Redeemer.

INTERPRET AND RESPOND

Redeeming Light for Hidden Places

SPIRIT'S CONVICTION

Specific and truthful. It leads toward confession, cleansing, restored fellowship, and a faithful next step before the Redeemer.

SHAME-DRIVEN CONDEMNATION

Vague and crushing. It treats exposure as the final word, drives hiding, and forgets the cleansing available in Christ.

Heart Examination

I become defensive when...

I most want others to see me as...

I am tempted to hide...

I often excuse...

I find it difficult to forgive...

I need God's Word to correct my belief that...

Bring one hidden place into God's light. Write a short prayer of honest confession and trust.

SUMMARY

The King searches the heart not to destroy His people with shame, but to free them from what deforms their lives.

DAY 4 | THE WAY

Put On the New Life

PRIMARY READING
Colossians 3**SUPPORTING TEXTS**

Genesis 1:26-28; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Romans 6:1-14; Ephesians 4:20-32; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Corinthians 15:47-49

Place in the Biblical Story

Humanity was created in God's image, but sin distorted how that image is expressed. God promised to cleanse His people, give them a new heart, and place His Spirit within them. Through union with Christ, believers share in His death and resurrection. Colossians 3 connects the renewed life to the image of the Creator: God is restoring in Christ what sin has damaged.

Read and Observe

1. What has already happened to believers according to Colossians 3:1-4?

2. What actions are commanded in verses 5-11?

3. What identity statements appear before the commands in verses 12-17?

4. Which old practices especially damage relationships and community?

5. Which new qualities are relational?

6. What holds all the virtues together?

7. What roles do Christ's peace and Word play in the community?

Interpretive guardrail: Paul's commands do not create a new identity through performance. They describe a life consistent with the identity believers have already received in Christ.

INTERPRET AND PRACTICE

Identity Before Instruction

THE ORDER OF GRACE

Believers have died and been raised with Christ. The old life must be put to death, and Christ's character must take visible shape. Obedience does not purchase belonging; it expresses the new reality God has given.

Put Off and Put On

Situation	Old-Self Response	New-Life Response
Someone criticizes me		
I am overlooked		
Someone breaks a promise		
I hear damaging information about another person		
I become impatient with a family member or coworker		

Which quality in Colossians 3:12-17 would most clearly display Christ in one current relationship? Name the person, the quality, and one concrete action.

SUMMARY

Kingdom obedience does not create our identity in Christ. It reveals and expresses the new identity God has already given us in Him.

DAY 5 | WORSHIP & RESPONSE

Worship With Integrity

PRIMARY READING
Psalm 15**SUPPORTING TEXTS**

Genesis 2:8-15; Exodus 19:3-6; Psalm 24:1-6; Isaiah 1:10-17; Micah 6:6-8; Matthew 5:8, 23-24; Hebrews 10:19-25; Revelation 21-22

Place in the Biblical Story

The story begins with humanity dwelling in God's presence. Sin brings exile. The tabernacle and temple become signs of God's dwelling among His people, while the prophets confront worship disconnected from justice, truth, and mercy. Jesus alone is fully righteous and brings believers near to God. The grace that grants access also forms a people whose worship and conduct increasingly agree.

Read and Observe

1. What question governs Psalm 15?

2. Which qualities concern personal character?

3. Which qualities concern speech?

4. Which qualities concern the treatment of neighbors?

5. What examples involve money or personal cost?

6. What promise concludes the psalm?

Interpretive guardrail: Psalm 15 is not a ladder for earning access to God. Christ brings His people near, and His grace forms them into people who reflect the character of the One they worship.

INTERPRET AND RESPOND

An Undivided Life Before God

1 Whole-Life Integrity

Public worship and private conduct belong to one life before God.

2 Faithful Worship

Truthful speech, costly promises, justice, and mercy are covenant faithfulness.

3 Grace Forms

Christ brings us near, then forms us to reflect the character of the One we worship.

Integrity Inventory

AREA TO BRING BEFORE GOD	ALIGNED	NEEDS PRAYER	ACT
My words when the person is absent	☐	☐	☐
My promises when keeping them becomes costly	☐	☐	☐
My treatment of people who cannot benefit me	☐	☐	☐
My financial choices	☐	☐	☐
My private habits	☐	☐	☐
My response to enemies or critics	☐	☐	☐
My behavior when no recognition is available	☐	☐	☐

What promise, financial decision, conversation, or relationship currently requires integrity? What faithful action will make your worship visible?

SUMMARY

Kingdom worship is an integrated life in which devotion to God becomes visible through truthfulness, justice, mercy, faithfulness, and love.

WEEKLY SYNTHESIS

Five Movements of Kingdom Formation

The five days form one journey. Follow the movement from hearing the King to becoming a whole-life worshiper.

1

The King Speaks

Jesus possesses the authority to define the life of His kingdom.

2

The Word Forms

God's truth reshapes the imagination, desires, and decisions of His people.

3

The Light Exposes

God reveals what is hidden so sin may be confessed, forgiven, and transformed.

4

The Spirit Renews

Those united with Christ put off the old humanity and grow into His image.

5

Worship Becomes a Whole Life

Life with God produces integrity in speech, relationships, commitments, and ordinary decisions.

Which movement is most needed in your life right now? What makes you choose it?

Where do you see evidence that Christ is already renewing you?

THE NARRATIVE ARC

Kingdom Life in the Biblical Story

The Sermon on the Mount belongs inside the whole story of Scripture. This larger frame protects kingdom ethics from becoming moral self-improvement.

BIBLICAL MOVEMENT	CONTRIBUTION TO THE WEEK
Creation	Humanity is made to live under God's rule, reflect His image, and dwell in His presence.
Fall	Humanity rejects God's Word, hides from His presence, and becomes inwardly divided.
Covenant & Israel	God gives instruction and forms a people to display His holiness and wisdom.
Prophetic Hope	God promises forgiveness, renewed hearts, His Spirit, and restored fellowship.
Christ	Jesus reveals the King, fulfills faithful humanity, exposes sin, and brings His people near.
Spirit-Filled Church	Believers are formed by Christ's Word and display His character in community.
New Creation	God's people will dwell with Him, reflect Christ fully, and live in undivided righteousness.

How does this biblical storyline keep the Sermon on the Mount from becoming a checklist for earning God's acceptance?

LOOK BACK BEFORE YOU MOVE FORWARD

What Is the King Forming in You?

Answer honestly and briefly. You are not grading your spiritual performance. You are naming what the Lord has shown you and choosing a faithful response.

1. What have you learned about the relationship between grace and obedience?

2. Which teaching of Jesus most directly confronts your present way of thinking or living?

3. Which competing voice most often shapes your expectations, fears, or desires?

4. What hidden pattern have you been invited to bring into God's redeeming light?

5. Which quality from Colossians 3 would most clearly display Christ in a current relationship?

6. How does the hope of new creation encourage patient, lifelong transformation?

SUMMARY

The Sermon on the Mount is not a ladder into God's kingdom. It describes the life taking shape as people receive the King, trust His Word, are brought near through grace, and are renewed in His image.

CHOOSE ONE FAITHFUL PRACTICE

Do the Next Right Thing

Transformation is not vague intention. Choose one movement and name a specific, grace-dependent response for the coming week.

☐ Hear the King: obey one teaching of Jesus you have admired but postponed.

☐ Treasure the Word: establish one repeated practice that keeps Scripture present.

☐ Welcome the Light: confess one hidden pattern before God and seek wise help if needed.

☐ Put On the New Life: replace one old response with one Christlike response.

☐ Worship With Integrity: keep one costly promise or repair one divided area of life.

My Specific Next Step

What will I do?

Where or with whom will I practice it?

When will I begin, and what reminder will help me follow through?

What truth about God's grace will keep this from becoming self-reliant moral effort?

ENTRUST THE RESPONSE TO GOD

Grace for the Life of the Kingdom

Obedience is a grace-dependent response to the King. Revisit the week's central question, name the evidence of His work, and pray for the Spirit to form Christ's character in you.

Revisit the Weekly Study Question

How does life under Jesus' authority restore God's intention for humanity and prepare His people for life in the new creation?

Evidence of Grace

Where have you already seen the Lord forming trust, truthfulness, compassion, patience, integrity, or love in you?

Prayer Response

Father, thank You that my identity rests in Christ rather than my performance. Teach me to trust the authority and goodness of the King. Let Your Word search, renew, and form me. By Your Spirit, make my ordinary life an honest act of worship before You.

SUMMARY

The King speaks in grace. The Word forms. The Spirit renews. The whole life becomes worship.

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

Prayer, Questions, and Further Study

Use this space for questions to revisit, truths to remember, people to pray for, or observations from the supporting passages.

A Truth I Want to Remember

A Question I Want to Explore

Prayer and Study Notes