

Living Connections Bible Study



Directions for Living - My Character

Icebreaker: What concerns do you have for the people in the world around you?
Do you have an honest heartfelt concern for those without Christ?

Prayer: Leaders have your group spend some time praying for their relatives, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, friends, and those who don't know Jesus.

Text: Matthew 4:23 - 5:12

1. What main message did Jesus preach to the multitudes who came to listen to Him, and what did He mean? Matthew 4:17

The Gospel of Matthew presents Jesus as our coming King. According to the Old Testament prophets, at His Second Coming He will set up a literal kingdom on earth and rule from the throne of David in Jerusalem.

2. What kind of a Kingdom does Jesus rule over today? Luke 17:20-21

3. What was one of Jesus' first priorities when He began His public ministry?
Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 6:12-16

4. What kinds of people do you suppose were attracted to hear and see Jesus?
Matthew 4:23-25

5. What prompted Jesus to take His disciples up on the mountain where He could share with them His directions for living expressed in the *Sermon on the Mount*? Matthew 5:1

6. Why do you think Jesus left the multitude in the valley to teach His disciples on the mountain?
Matthew 5:1-2; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

7. Nine times Jesus speaks about being blessed in Matthew 5:3-12. What do you think this word *blessed* means?

8. What place must every person come to in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven so Christ can change them?
Matthew 5:3, James 4:6; Philippians 2:10-11, Matthew 4:17; Romans 10:9,13

9. Why would a new believer mourn or experience grief when they first come in repentance to Jesus; and what is His promise to those who mourn? Why?
Matthew 5:4; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 John 1:9; Romans 8:15-16

10. What condition of character comes to those who are broken, humbled, forgiven and comforted by God. Matthew 5:5; Acts 9:1-6; Isaiah 6:1-8

11. What is God's promise to those who are meek in Matthew 5:5, and what does it mean?

12. What natural progression of change in character do we find in Matthew 5:6 for those who have been humbled in spirit, mourned over past failure and sin, received the assurance of forgiveness, and now have a meek and submissive spirit to do all that Christ might ask of us? Psalm 81:10

13. How does being hungry and thirsty for righteousness affect the way I look at and treat others? Matthew 5:7

14. How will being hungry and thirsty for righteousness affect my heart and relationship to God? Matthew 5:8

15. Once Christ has transformed our character what impact will our lives begin to have on others? Matthew 5:9; 2 Corinthians 5:18

16. A second evidence that Christ has transformed our character is that we will be persecuted. Why do you suppose that is, and what is God promise to those who suffer for Him? Matthew 5:10-12

Think about it this week:

Is this song true for you?

Things are different now

Things are different now, something's happened to me
since I gave my heart to Jesus.
Things are different now all is changed it must be
since I gave my heart to Him.
Things I loved before have passed away.
Things I love far more have come to stay.
Things are different now, Something's happened to me
since I gave my heart to Him