

Small Group Discussion Guide

Essentials for Moving Forward: For the week of June 7 - 13, 2020

Main Thought and Scripture:

Jesus' famous teaching known as the Sermon on the Mount taught essential truths for living life as God intended amid a broken, hostile, and uncertain world. Jesus' way is a different way of life that sets His followers apart and brings about God's blessing. In the midst of our uncertain world, Jesus' teachings are needed more than ever.

Matthew 6:25-33 NIV

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?" (v. 25)

- Life's true essentials transcend material desires and basic needs.
- Crisis is meant to prune what is excess in life from what is truly essential.

"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin...³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?" (v. 26-30)

- Choose to focus on our "Heavenly Father" who provides for all of creation and for all of us who are of greatest value to Him.

"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (v. 31-33)

- As we prioritize God and His concerns, He will provide for us.
- Our purpose is to make a difference in the lives of others (His Kingdom). As we put others first, God promises to provide what we need to fulfill our purpose.

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you from the main thought and passage above and why?
- How have these recent crises caused you to reevaluate your priorities and values? Share one or two ways that you want to live differently than before these crises began.

Prayer:

- Pray for one another that the lessons learned from these crises will result in lasting life transformation.
- Pray for justice, peace, and reconciliation to happen in our nation and around the world.