

5. Jesus sought to build and restore a biblical worldview in his followers. From this passage, what does a restored worldview look like?

6. What does “leveling the playing field” look like in conversation with our kids or with not-yet-believing friends? (Don’t forget to include what Jesus says about anger and name-calling.)

7. What small steps can you take to implement your learnings this week?

Practical Next Steps

- Read *Is God Anti-Gay?* by Sam Allberry and *Living in a Gray World: A Christian Teen’s Guide to Understanding Homosexuality* by Preston Sprinkle. Listen to the May 13, 2019 episode of The Gospel Coalition podcast of a talk by Rebecca McLaughlin called, “4 Things Christians Must Reclaim.” If you dig in and want more, email me and I’ll suggest more resources (hwilliams@fiveoakschurch.org).
- If you’re not a reader, the books are short reads. But if you prefer, listen to the Rebecca McLaughlin talk, and get the DVD small group courses by Preston Sprinkle, “Grace/Truth 1.0” and “Grace/Truth 2.0” at <https://centerforfaith.com>, or do his online course, “LGBT & the Church: 22 comprehensive sessions taught by Dr. Preston Sprinkle” at <https://www.digitalleadersforum.org>. At least go and watch the trailer to this online course and the dvd materials.
- From these resources, choose which ones would make the most sense to read/watch with your kids or with an interested friend. At the very least, this will equip you for crucial conversations.

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Good & Beautiful Life (The Sermon on the Mount) - Part 4

“I want to learn how to communicate a Christian worldview (to my kids).”

Matthew 5:17-30

In our cultural moment, _____ is the primary playing field on which worldview issues are shaped and on which a Jesus-centered worldview is accepted or rejected.

Historical Perspective: The ‘60’s Sexual Revolution

- Churches and whole denominations that gave up historic, orthodox, biblical, Jesus-centered sexual ethics are currently either gone or _____.
- The moral crusading approach of the past fifty years failed because while its sexual ethics may have been in line with Jesus’ teaching on basic points, its attitude and _____ was anti-Christ, anti-biblical, anti-gospel-centered.
- A pretty incredible _____ of gospel-centered, Jesus-loving Christians took off during that time.

“I want to learn how to communicate a Christian worldview (to my kids).”

1. Love people who are _____ from God.

Matthew 5:17-20; Philippians 3:4-6; Deuteronomy 4:5-8

You have to truly and demonstratively _____ people who don’t share your Christian worldview.

Jesus’ beef with the scribes and the Pharisees is never with the fact that they are scrupulous in keeping the law or that they have an _____ tradition that helps them keep faithful to the law by giving them guardrails. Jesus’ problem was...

- Their rules kept regular people _____.
- Their rules were too focused on outward actions and not enough on the _____.
- Their rules neglected the _____ nature of their faith.

2. Always treat people with _____ as God's image bearers, seeking reconciliation.

Matthew 5:21-26

At the core, insults _____ someone who is made in the image of God.

3. In your heart and your language, _____ the playing field.

Matthew 5:27-30

This passage _____ the playing field when it comes to our sexuality.

Our tone and posture often betrays that we don't think our sexuality is deeply broken, demented, perverted, and bent. Jesus _____!

"[We] need to go beyond the clichéd 'love the sinner and hate the sin' message. We need to 'love the sinner and hate _____ sin,' and invite the world to do the same." (Preston Sprinkle)

4. Live as _____ strugglers and sufferers.

"Ever since I have been open about my own experiences of homosexuality, a number of Christians have said something like this: 'the gospel must be harder for you than it is for me,' as though I have more to give up than they do. But that fact is that the gospel demands everything of all of us. If someone thinks the gospel has somehow slotted into their life quite easily, without causing any major adjustments to their lifestyle or aspirations, it is likely that they have not really started following Jesus at all. And just as the cost is the same for all of us, so too are the blessings." (Sam Allberry)

Practical Next Steps

For anyone wanting to communicate a Christian worldview to their teens or to a friend and wondering where to start, see the "Practical Next Steps" section on the back of this guide.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Matthew 5:17-30. What is your first impression or gut reaction of what Jesus says here?
3. Why do you think sexuality has become the primary playing field on which worldview issues are shaped and on which a Jesus-centered worldview is accepted or rejected?
4. Reread Matthew 5:17-20. Assume the Pharisees were the orthodox, Bible-believing, faithful of their day. They were. It can be demonstrated by their writings that they believed they were lost without God's grace. So what was Jesus' beef with them, without resorting to calling them "legalistic"?