

## **Practical Tips for Sharing the Gospel**

*#cofcoutreach #cofcwhatruly matters*

**A. The Simple Gospel.** Teach the Gospel using the bookmark we handed out, also available at the Connection Centre, or look at the full information [here, on our website.](#)

**B. See People. Love People. Share Jesus.**

**C. Help someone who is hurting:**

1. Meet their physical needs – take them out for dinner, watch kids, do housework, give them a break.
2. Listen to them, *really* listen, and pray for them, silently, while you listen.
3. Give them hope. Share your story of hurting and what helped you. Ask them, “Can I share with you what helped me when I was hurting?”

*Read John 9 and 1 Kings 19:1-18 to see how God comforted Elijah.*

**D. Two Minute Gospel** - Think about what the Gospel means to you. Try to put that into a sentence or two and practice saying it to your spouse or children or friend. In this way, you will be able to confidently, quickly and easily share your faith with those you are in contact with.

**E. Soak in the Teachings of Jesus.** (on the next few pages)

**F. Memorize verses**

## Matthew 5-7 New Living Translation (NLT)

### The Sermon on the Mount

**5** One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, <sup>2</sup>and he began to teach them.

### The Beatitudes

<sup>3</sup>“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,<sup>[a]</sup>  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>4</sup>God blesses those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>God blesses those who are humble,  
for they will inherit the whole earth.

<sup>6</sup>God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,<sup>[b]</sup>  
for they will be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>God blesses those who are merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup>God blesses those whose hearts are pure,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>God blesses those who work for peace,  
for they will be called the children of God.

<sup>10</sup>God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>11</sup>“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. <sup>12</sup>Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

## Teaching about Salt and Light

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

## Teaching about the Law

<sup>17</sup>“Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. <sup>18</sup>I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. <sup>19</sup>So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

<sup>20</sup>“But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

## Teaching about Anger

<sup>21</sup>“You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>22</sup>But I say, if you are even angry with someone,<sup>[d]</sup> you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot,<sup>[e]</sup> you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone,<sup>[f]</sup> you are in danger of the fires of hell.<sup>[g]</sup>

<sup>23</sup>“So if you are presenting a sacrifice<sup>[h]</sup> at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you,<sup>24</sup>leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

<sup>25</sup>“When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>And if that happens, you surely won’t be free again until you have paid the last penny.”

## Teaching about Adultery

<sup>27</sup>“You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’” <sup>28</sup>But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

## Teaching about Divorce

<sup>31</sup>“You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’” <sup>32</sup>But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

## Teaching about Vows

<sup>33</sup>“You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.’” <sup>34</sup>But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne. <sup>35</sup>And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>Do not even say, ‘By my head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

## Teaching about Revenge

<sup>38</sup>“You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>39</sup>But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. <sup>40</sup>If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. <sup>41</sup>If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile,<sup>[a]</sup> carry it two miles. <sup>42</sup>Give to those who ask, and don’t turn away from those who want to borrow.

## Teaching about Love for Enemies

<sup>43</sup>“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’<sup>[a]</sup> and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup>But I say, love your enemies!<sup>[a]</sup> Pray for those who persecute you! <sup>45</sup>In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. <sup>46</sup>If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. <sup>47</sup>If you are kind only to your friends,<sup>[a]</sup> how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. <sup>48</sup>But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

## Teaching about Giving to the Needy

**6** “Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup>When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. <sup>4</sup>Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

## Teaching about Prayer and Fasting

<sup>5</sup>“When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. <sup>6</sup>But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

<sup>7</sup>“When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. <sup>8</sup>Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! <sup>9</sup>Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,

may your name be kept holy.

<sup>10</sup>May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup>Give us today the food we need,<sup>[u]</sup>

<sup>12</sup>and forgive us our sins,

as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

<sup>13</sup>And don’t let us yield to temptation,<sup>[u]</sup>

but rescue us from the evil one.<sup>[w]</sup>

<sup>14</sup>“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. <sup>15</sup>But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

<sup>16</sup>“And when you fast, don’t make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, comb your hair<sup>[w]</sup> and wash your face. <sup>18</sup>Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

## Teaching about Money and Possessions

<sup>19</sup>“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

<sup>22</sup>“Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. <sup>23</sup>But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

<sup>24</sup>“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

<sup>25</sup>“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are?<sup>27</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

<sup>28</sup>“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, <sup>29</sup>yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>30</sup>And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

<sup>31</sup>“So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.<sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God<sup>[x]</sup> above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

<sup>34</sup>“So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

## Do Not Judge Others

**7** “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. <sup>2</sup>For you will be treated as you treat others.<sup>[v]</sup> The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.<sup>[z]</sup>

<sup>3</sup>“And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye<sup>[aa]</sup> when you have a log in your own? <sup>4</sup>How can you think of saying to your friend,<sup>[ab]</sup> ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.

<sup>6</sup>“Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy.<sup>[ac]</sup> Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

## Effective Prayer

<sup>7</sup>“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>9</sup>“You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? <sup>10</sup>Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! <sup>11</sup>So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

## The Golden Rule

<sup>12</sup>“Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

## The Narrow Gate

<sup>13</sup>“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell<sup>[ad]</sup> is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. <sup>14</sup>But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

## The Tree and Its Fruit

<sup>15</sup>“Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. <sup>16</sup>You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup>So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

## True Disciples

<sup>21</sup>“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. <sup>22</sup>On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ <sup>23</sup>But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

## Building on a Solid Foundation

<sup>24</sup>“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. <sup>25</sup>Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. <sup>26</sup>But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. <sup>27</sup>When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

<sup>28</sup>When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup>for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.

# John 14-16

New Living Translation (NLT)

## Jesus, the Way to the Father

**14** “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. <sup>2</sup>There is more than enough room in my Father’s home.<sup>[a]</sup> If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>3</sup>When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.”

<sup>5</sup>“No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

<sup>6</sup>Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is.<sup>[c]</sup> From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”

<sup>8</sup>Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

<sup>9</sup>Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? <sup>10</sup>Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. <sup>11</sup>Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

<sup>12</sup>“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. <sup>13</sup>You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. <sup>14</sup>Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

## Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

<sup>15</sup>“If you love me, obey<sup>[d]</sup> my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,<sup>[e]</sup> who will never leave you. <sup>17</sup>He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.<sup>[f]</sup> <sup>18</sup>No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.<sup>19</sup>Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup>Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”

<sup>22</sup>Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, “Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?”

<sup>23</sup>Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.<sup>24</sup>Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. <sup>25</sup>I am telling you these things now while I am still with you.<sup>26</sup>But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

<sup>27</sup>“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.<sup>28</sup>Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is greater than I am. <sup>29</sup>I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.

<sup>30</sup>“I don’t have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me, <sup>31</sup>but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let’s be going.

## Jesus, the True Vine

**15** "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. <sup>3</sup>You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you.<sup>4</sup>Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup>"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup>But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup>When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

<sup>9</sup>"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.<sup>10</sup>When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! <sup>12</sup>This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. <sup>16</sup>You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

## The World's Hatred

<sup>18</sup>“If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup>The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. <sup>20</sup>Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. <sup>21</sup>They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me. <sup>22</sup>They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup>Anyone who hates me also hates my Father. <sup>24</sup>If I hadn’t done such miraculous signs among them that no one else could do, they would not be guilty. But as it is, they have seen everything I did, yet they still hate me and my Father. <sup>25</sup>This fulfills what is written in their Scriptures<sup>[9]</sup>: ‘They hated me without cause.’

<sup>26</sup>“But I will send you the Advocate<sup>[h]</sup>—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. <sup>27</sup>And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry.

**16** “I have told you these things so that you won’t abandon your faith.<sup>2</sup> For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God.<sup>3</sup> This is because they have never known the Father or me. <sup>4</sup>Yes, I’m telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember my warning. I didn’t tell you earlier because I was going to be with you for a while longer.

## The Work of the Holy Spirit

<sup>5</sup>“But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. <sup>6</sup>Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you. <sup>7</sup>But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate<sup>[i]</sup> won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.<sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment. <sup>9</sup>The world’s sin is that it

refuses to believe in me. <sup>10</sup>Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. <sup>11</sup>Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

<sup>12</sup>“There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can’t bear it now.<sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. <sup>14</sup>He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. <sup>15</sup>All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.’

## Sadness Will Be Turned to Joy

<sup>16</sup>“In a little while you won’t see me anymore. But a little while after that, you will see me again.”

<sup>17</sup>Some of the disciples asked each other, “What does he mean when he says, ‘In a little while you won’t see me, but then you will see me,’ and ‘I am going to the Father’? <sup>18</sup>And what does he mean by ‘a little while’? We don’t understand.”

<sup>19</sup>Jesus realized they wanted to ask him about it, so he said, “Are you asking yourselves what I meant? I said in a little while you won’t see me, but a little while after that you will see me again. <sup>20</sup>I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy. <sup>21</sup>It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world. <sup>22</sup>So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.<sup>23</sup>At that time you won’t need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. <sup>24</sup>You haven’t done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

<sup>25</sup>“I have spoken of these matters in figures of speech, but soon I will stop speaking figuratively and will tell you plainly all about the Father.<sup>26</sup>Then you will ask in my name. I’m not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf, <sup>27</sup>for

the Father himself loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from God.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>28</sup>Yes, I came from the Father into the world, and now I will leave the world and return to the Father.”

<sup>29</sup>Then his disciples said, “At last you are speaking plainly and not figuratively. <sup>30</sup>Now we understand that you know everything, and there’s no need to question you. From this we believe that you came from God.”

<sup>31</sup>Jesus asked, “Do you finally believe? <sup>32</sup>But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup>I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

## **Luke 6** New Living Translation (NLT)

### A Discussion about the Sabbath

**6** One Sabbath day as Jesus was walking through some grainfields, his disciples broke off heads of grain, rubbed off the husks in their hands, and ate the grain. <sup>2</sup>But some Pharisees said, “Why are you breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath?”

<sup>3</sup>Jesus replied, “Haven’t you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>4</sup>He went into the house of God and broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests can eat. He also gave some to his companions.” <sup>5</sup>And Jesus added, “The Son of Man<sup>[a]</sup> is Lord, even over the Sabbath.”

### Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

<sup>6</sup>On another Sabbath day, a man with a deformed right hand was in the synagogue while Jesus was teaching. <sup>7</sup>The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees watched Jesus closely. If he healed the man’s hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath.

<sup>8</sup>But Jesus knew their thoughts. He said to the man with the deformed hand, "Come and stand in front of everyone." So the man came forward.<sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to his critics, "I have a question for you. Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?"

<sup>10</sup>He looked around at them one by one and then said to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored! <sup>11</sup>At this, the enemies of Jesus were wild with rage and began to discuss what to do with him.

## Jesus Chooses the Twelve Apostles

<sup>12</sup>One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. <sup>13</sup>At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles. Here are their names:

<sup>14</sup>Simon (whom he named Peter),  
Andrew (Peter's brother),  
James,  
John,  
Philip,  
Bartholomew,  
<sup>15</sup>Matthew,  
Thomas,  
James (son of Alphaeus),  
Simon (who was called the zealot),  
<sup>16</sup>Judas (son of James),  
Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).

## Crowds Follow Jesus

<sup>17</sup>When they came down from the mountain, the disciples stood with Jesus on a large, level area, surrounded by many of his followers and by the crowds. There were people from all over Judea and from Jerusalem and from as far north as the seacoasts of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those troubled by evil <sup>[b]</sup> spirits

were healed. <sup>19</sup>Everyone tried to touch him, because healing power went out from him, and he healed everyone.

## The Beatitudes

<sup>20</sup>Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said,

“God blesses you who are poor,  
for the Kingdom of God is yours.

<sup>21</sup>God blesses you who are hungry now,  
for you will be satisfied.

God blesses you who weep now,  
for in due time you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup>What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man.<sup>23</sup> When that happens, be happy! Yes, leap for joy! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, their ancestors treated the ancient prophets that same way.

## Sorrows Foretold

<sup>24</sup>“What sorrow awaits you who are rich,  
for you have your only happiness now.

<sup>25</sup>What sorrow awaits you who are fat and prosperous now,  
for a time of awful hunger awaits you.

What sorrow awaits you who laugh now,  
for your laughing will turn to mourning and sorrow.

<sup>26</sup>What sorrow awaits you who are praised by the crowds,  
for their ancestors also praised false prophets.

## Love for Enemies

<sup>27</sup>“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. <sup>28</sup>Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. <sup>29</sup>If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. <sup>30</sup>Give to anyone who

asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

<sup>32</sup>"If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! <sup>33</sup>And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! <sup>34</sup>And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

<sup>35</sup>"Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. <sup>36</sup>You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

## Do Not Judge Others

<sup>37</sup>"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup>Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.<sup>[a]</sup>"

<sup>39</sup>Then Jesus gave the following illustration: "Can one blind person lead another? Won't they both fall into a ditch? <sup>40</sup>Students<sup>[a]</sup> are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher.

<sup>41</sup>"And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye<sup>[a]</sup> when you have a log in your own? <sup>42</sup>How can you think of saying, 'Friend,<sup>[b]</sup> let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

## The Tree and Its Fruit

<sup>43</sup>“A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. <sup>44</sup>A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. <sup>45</sup>A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

## Building on a Solid Foundation

<sup>46</sup>“So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say? <sup>47</sup>I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. <sup>48</sup>It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. <sup>49</sup>But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”