

NMC TEACHING SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

AUGUST 4, 2019



AFTER FURTHER REVIEW;



WEEK 2

Overview of “After Further Review”

This is a 5 week series called “After Further Review”, where we will examine Jesus’ most famous sermon and evaluate our own responses along the way. We often find ourselves moving through life with priorities out of order, direction blurred, and assumptions about how life should turn out. Jesus was the master at challenging his disciples to live with a fresh start and a new focus. The Sermon on the Mount stands as a message that is countercultural to the world—a message where losing becomes our gain, weakness becomes our strength, love becomes our currency, and people become our investment. As followers of Jesus, how are we each doing in these areas? Think about the journey of faith like a football game...how many times would a referee look at our lives and throw out a yellow flag? Stay tuned...

Icebreaker:

What excites you most about the upcoming Fall season?

Community Group Discussion Questions: **Don't feel like you have to get through all the questions below. We create and give you more than you need to ensure that you have all that you need. Feel free to add / takeaway based on the needs of your group.*

*Six times in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus uses the phrase “you have heard it said.” In this phrase, He is pointing back to what they know and have heard through the Old Testament. In addition to this phrase, He would add “but I say...” Some would say that He is nullifying what the Old Testament taught. Rather than nullifying or contradicting the Old Testament, Jesus is bringing clarity to it.

Read Matthew 5:21-30.

Imagine being part of the original audience of the Sermon on the Mount. What parts from this passage would have been comforting? What parts would have been challenging?

What makes Jesus’ teaching different from that of other teachers of the Law?

How is anger similar to murder? How are they both destructive?

It is possible, on your own merit, to keep from murdering someone. But keeping yourself from anger, from insulting those you dislike, and from offending others is much harder. How do these sins show the state of your heart?

Who is responsible to initiate reconciliation in this passage? The one wronged, or the one who has offended another?

Why does our thought life (with reference to hatred and lust) matter to God?

In verses 29-30, Jesus “uses deliberate overstatement” to emphasize the importance of remaining pure in mind and body. “Even things of great value should be given up if they are leading a person to sin” What does this passage teach about the seriousness of sin?

One of the major themes of the Sermon on the Mount is integrity – being the same person on the inside and the outside. How does today’s passage exemplify that theme?

Jesus’ radical interpretation of the Law means that we all guilty of breaking the Law. How is it that this Gospel can still be good news?

What does this passage teach us about God’s character?

What action steps do you feel the Lord leading you to take and how can the group help?

Questions to ask / consider that Rob asked in his message:

After Further Review, have you ever considered that your entire life is spiritual?

After Further Review, are there some areas of your life that you might rationalize and justify with God?

After Further Review, have you ever experienced someone placing more weight on your sin than their own?

After Further Review, have you been a person who has placed more weight on someone else's sin above your own?

After Further Review, are you someone who has a tendency to respond in anger?

After Further Review, are you someone who initiates reconciliation?

After Further Review, what areas of your life do you need to place some guardrails?

After Further Review, would you be willing to trust Jesus with your _____?

Homework:

- Take some time to sit with God and ask Him to help you answer the questions above from Rob's message. Then ask Him what action steps you might need to take. Maybe you would even be as bold as to share those action steps with a friend or your group so they could follow up with you, pray for you and encourage you along the way.
- Read the Sermon on the Mount each week throughout this series.