



# Sunday School Study Plan for September 2023

with Mr. Mackie Hill and Deacon Altheda Winford  
Four Weeks (September 3, 10, 17, and 24)

## Topic: The Sermon on the Mount: Jesus Teaches His Disciples

### Week 1: The Beatitudes

#### Background Reading:

- Matthew 4: 12-17 (Jesus Begins His Ministry)
- Matthew 4: 18-22 (Jesus Calls His First Disciples)
- Matthew 4: 23-25 (Jesus Ministers in Galilee)
- Matthew 5: 1-3 (Jesus Begins to Teach His Disciples)

#### Guiding Questions:

1. What happened just before Jesus began to preach?
2. Who was Jesus' first disciple?
3. Where did Jesus begin to teach his disciples?
4. What are the beatitudes, and why are they called "beatitudes"?

### Week 2: The Beatitudes: Meaning and Analysis

#### Background Reading: Matthew 5: 1-5

#### Guiding Questions:

1. Questions from last Sunday's readings and content?
2. Why are Jesus' first teachings called the Beatitudes?
3. Why was it important for the disciples to understand the Beatitudes?
4. Are we disciples of Jesus? What evidence do we present?

### Week 3: The Beatitudes: Meaning and Analysis

#### Background Reading:

- Matthew 5: 6-9
- Matthew 5: 13-16

#### Guiding Questions:

1. Questions from last Sunday's readings and content?
2. How can we apply The Beatitudes to our lives?
3. Why was Jesus teaching them to His disciples?
4. How are Christians the Salt of the Earth and the Light of the World?

### Week 4: The Beatitudes: Meaning and Analysis

#### Background Reading:

- Matthew 5: 38-42 (Jesus Teaches on Retaliation)
- Matthew 5: 43-48 (Jesus Teaches on Love)
- Matthew 6: 12 (The Golden Rule)
- Matthew 7: 21-27 (Story of the Two Builders)

#### Guiding Questions:

1. Can we turn the other cheek?
2. Can we love our enemies?
3. What is the Golden Rule?
4. What does it take to be a good disciple?
5. Summary of significant points of Jesus' teaching through the Beatitudes?

### WEEKLY HOMEWORK

1. READ TEXT FOR THE WEEK
2. USE A STUDY APPROACH TO RE-READ TEXT FOR PERSONAL AND BIBLICAL CONNECTIONS
  - A. CONSIDER 3 INSIGHTS, 2 SIGNIFICANT VERSES, AND ONE KEY WORD FOR DISCUSSION
  - B. USE BIBLICAL COMMENTARIES ON TEXT TO GIVE CONTEXT OR BACKGROUND
  - C. REVIEW VARIED TRANSLATIONS TO COMPARE MEANINGS
3. CONNECT LESSONS TO SERMONS FROM PAST DECADES AND LAST SEVERAL MONTHS

**2 Timothy 2:15**, KJV: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." **2 Timothy 2:15**, NASB: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."