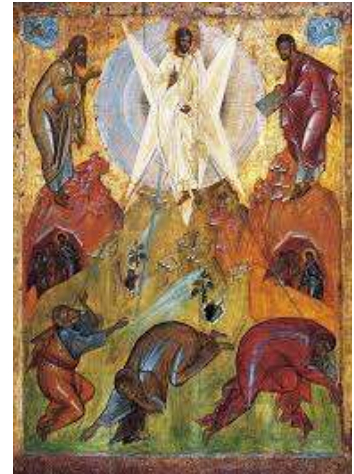


LECTIONARY - YEAR A (2025-2026)

WEEK 1	The Baptism of Jesus
WEEK 2	John Testifies About Jesus
WEEK 3	Jesus Begins to Preach
WEEK 4	Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount
WEEK 5	Salt and Light
WEEK 6	The Transfiguration



HOME GROUPS AND CLASSES GUIDE:

1. Open in Worship and Prayer: this is to invite God into the meeting. For example, you can light a candle, sing together, or use a YouTube Hymn or song.
2. Open your Bibles and read the Bible verses for this week (take turns?) see below.
3. Reflect on the Bible verses and the reflection written by a Minister or Lay Preacher.
4. Connect with each other and take the reflection deeper by answering the Questions.
5. Works out: What have we learned that we can apply in our lives in this session? Keep each other accountable for promises made or important steps taken. Pray for and over each other (after taking prayer requests).



WORSHIP SONG:

– **Been so Good + Goodness of God.** (Christ Church Collective)

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDh1MqT1puM&si=XRB-md7c8g5RAXSm>

WEEK 4: Sunday, February 01, 2026: Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount



SUNDAY
READINGS

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12 New International Version

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” ¹¹“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

REFLECTION WRITTEN BY: LOCAL PREACHER – KHANYISO NJWABULE

From the start we are told that Jesus goes up the mountain to teach his disciples and all those who were present in what is commonly known as the Sermon on the Mount. Just as Moses went up on the Mountain of Sinai to receive the law from the God, Jesus who is fully God and fully man went up the Mountain to deliver the manifesto on how He will fulfil this law that was given to Moses. The Sermon on the Mount was an outline by our creator on what will manifest in the believers lives once His Kingdom of heaven crosses path with earth as He had said in a chapter before “*Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven has come near*” (Matthew 4:17b NIV). It is also interesting to note that St. Matthew calls those who were called by Jesus and came up to Him on the mountain (verse 1) – ‘disciples’ for the first in his Gospel.

If we are honest with ourselves, we often tune out when we read or listen to the Beatitudes (i.e. the 8 blessings delivered by Jesus - verses 3-12) in this text because we think we have heard and listened to them a thousand times before therefore we assume we fully know what they all mean. We may even misunderstand the Beatitudes as a list of steps we need to take to earn God’s favour. In fact, Jesus is giving us a portrait of a Christian life that is transformed by the power and means of the grace of the God. The Beatitudes are counter cultural to the ways of this world thus we often wrestle them, but they seek to define the character, condition and reward of a true disciple of Jesus Christ. It is important to understand that the source of all these blessings is God alone therefore they defy human logic but reflect a heaven reality.

It may seem from a surface level that some of the Beatitudes maybe glorifying the sufferings of a true disciple but in essence they highlight the fact that God will bless us no matter how difficult & unbearable our circumstances are as Rick Warren says in his book Purpose Driven Life - “*The blessed life is not easy – but it is eternal*”. Jesus himself in His 33 years on earth lived a perfect Beatitude life so that all of us as believers through His death and resurrection may enter the Kingdom of heaven while we still on earth and become the light & salt of the world as God purposed. Our Lord, Jesus Christ is calling us through the Beatitudes to pursue a blessed life that is shaped by Kingdom values, empowered by His grace and lived for His glory.

GROUP/CLASS QUESTIONS:

1. What does the term mean ‘being a disciple of Christ’ to you.
2. Have you experienced any of the 8 blessings manifest in your life? Share with the group at least one.
3. Have you been persecuted for being a follower of Jesus? Share with the group your experience.
4. In your own words, what is a blessed life to you?

MEMORY VERSES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: Micah 6:8 “*Act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*”

Prayer: Lord, shape my heart to love what You love. Teach me to walk humbly and live justly before You. **Amen.**

Tuesday: Psalm 15:2 “*The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous.*”

Prayer: God, guide my steps in integrity and truth. May my life reflect Your righteousness each day. **Amen.**

Wednesday: Psalm 15:4 *“Who keeps an oath even when it hurts and does not change their mind.”*

Prayer: Father, give me faithfulness in word and action. Help me honour You even when it is costly. **Amen.**

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 1:18 *“The message of the cross is... the power of God.”*

Prayer: Jesus, remind me that true power is found in You. Let me trust Your wisdom over the world’s ways. **Amen**

Friday : Matthew 5:6 *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.”*

Prayer: Lord, deepen my desire for what is right and holy. Fill me with Your truth until I am satisfied in You. **Amen.**

Saturday Matthew 5:9 *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”*

Prayer: God of peace, make me an instrument of Your love. Let my words and actions bring healing and unity. **Amen.**



- **Monday, February 02, 2026:** Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 1:1-18; Philemon 1-25;
- **Monday, February 02, 2026: Presentation of the Lord**
- **Tuesday, February 03, 2026:** Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6;
- **Wednesday, February 04, 2026:** Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26;
- **Thursday, February 05, 2026:** Psalm 112:1-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 1 John 5:1-5;
- **Friday, February 06, 2026:** Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18;
- **Saturday, February 07, 2026:** Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:13-16; Mark 7:1-8;

FAMILY TIME: WRITTEN BY JENNY BLAKE

Week 4: Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

Readings: Micah 6:1–8; Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18–31, Matthew 5:1–12

Theme: *God’s Way of Living Looks Different*



Introduction

As Epiphany continues, Jesus is revealed not only through who He is, but through how He teaches us to live. This week, Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount—one of His most important teachings. Instead of praising power, success, or popularity, Jesus blesses the humble, the merciful, and the peacemakers. These Scriptures show us that God’s ways are often surprising. God is not impressed by appearances but by hearts that seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with Him.

Opening Prayer

“Jesus, teach us Your ways. Help us to live with love, humility, and courage as we follow You. Amen.”

1. Micah 6:1–8 – What Does God Really Want?

God tells His people that He doesn’t want empty worship. He wants lives that do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with Him.

Talk About It

- Kids: What does it look like to be kind and fair at home or school?
- Teens: Why do you think God cares more about how we live than how we look on the outside?

2. Psalm 15 – Who May Live Close to God?

This psalm describes a person who lives honestly, treats others well, and speaks truth.

Talk About It

- Kids: Why is telling the truth important?
- Teens: Which of these qualities do you find hardest to live out and why?

3. 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 – God’s Wisdom Looks Different

Paul explains that God’s wisdom doesn’t always make sense to the world. God chooses what seems weak or small to show His strength.

Talk About It

- Kids: Can someone small still do big things for God?
- Teens: How does Jesus challenge the world’s ideas of success, strength, or popularity?

4. Matthew 5:1–12 – Jesus Teaches the Beatitudes

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by blessing people the world often overlooks: the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, and the peacemakers.

Talk About It

- Kids: Which blessing do you like the most—and why?
- Teens: Which Beatitude do you find most challenging to live out in daily life?

Bringing It Together

This week’s readings remind us that:

- God desires hearts that act justly and love others (Micah).
- Living close to God shapes how we treat people (Psalm).
- God’s wisdom turns the world’s values upside down (Corinthians).
- Jesus teaches a new way of living, the way of God’s Kingdom (Gospel).

Epiphany truth: Jesus shows us that God’s Kingdom is not about power, but about love, humility, and faithfulness.

Family Activity: “Kingdom Values”

Write these words on separate pieces of paper:

Kindness, Power, Mercy, Popularity, Humility, Revenge, Peace-making

Ask everyone to sort them into two piles:

- *Values Jesus teaches*
- *Values the world often praises*

Discuss:

- Kids: Which pile should we choose?
- Teens: How can we live out Jesus’ values this week?

Family Prayer

“Jesus, help us to live the way You taught—loving others, choosing kindness, and trusting God’s ways even when they feel different. Amen.”

Blessing

May God shape your hearts to live the way of His Kingdom, today and always