

JANUARY 10–16

This week's readings are taken from the Sermon on the Mount, the great body of Jesus' teaching collected in Matthew 5–7.

Please use a Bible to look up the readings each day.

Date: _____

Matthew 5:3–7

Which of these qualities (poor in spirit, mourning, meekness, hunger and thirst for righteousness, and mercy) best describes you. How so?

In which of these qualities are you perhaps weakest; which is a struggle for you?

Date: _____

Matthew 5:8-11

These are the rest of 'The Beatitudes' (the word refers to the blessings pronounced by Jesus). Look at the promises of today's beatitudes—which one(s) appeal(s) most to you and why?

Pray for God to work in your life such that you be enabled to more nearly fulfill these ideas.

Date: _____

Matthew 5:14–16

What sort of things have you done in which your light has shone before others? When have you provided examples of Christ's love?

Are there situations in which your light has failed to shine? When you have covered it up for fear of being ridiculed?

Date: _____

Matthew 5:43–45

Jesus totally changes the old commandment he quotes in v. 43. Make a list of your "enemies," what ever that means to me you (and be honest!). Then practice praying for each person or group in your list.

Date: _____

Matthew 7:7–8

Many of you mentioned at the beginning of confirmation that you wanted a stronger relationship with God. This passage promises that if we seek that relationship, it will be given to us. In what ways have you been seeking God? How can you do a better job of knocking?