



## Sermon Discussion Guide

March 29 & 30, 2025

"What's So Radical About What Jesus Taught?"

[Luke 15:1-7](#)

"The Jesus Who's More Than We Think" is a six-week sermon series exploring the true identity of Jesus beyond cultural assumptions and watered-down beliefs. This series invites you to rediscover Jesus in his fullness and experience the transformation that comes from knowing him as he truly is.

### PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on [hopeonline.tv](http://hopeonline.tv). Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

### GROW

#### Read [Matthew 5:1-12](#) – "The Sermon on the Mount"

- What does the Sermon on the Mount reveal about how God's values differ from the world's?
- "Blessed are the poor in spirit" can challenge our obsession with self-sufficiency and strength. How does this challenge your sense of control or pride? What does it teach us about where joy really comes from?
- Pastor Mike asked, "Do you have this joy—an untouchable joy that doesn't depend on circumstances?" How does this kind of joy compare to the temporary happiness we often chase?

#### Read [Matthew 7:24-27](#) – "Building on a Solid Foundation"

- When you think about storms in life, which ones have shaken you the most? What do you think Jesus means when he says the wise builder "listens to my teaching and follows it"? How can you begin identifying the foundations you're currently building your life on?
- Pastor Mike points out that even the devil knows what Jesus taught. The real dividing line is: are you living it out? Why does Jesus care about obedience and not just knowledge?
- What fears or doubts hold you back from fully surrendering to Jesus? Why is full trust in Jesus necessary for a solid spiritual foundation?

#### Read [Luke 15:1-32](#) – "Parables of the Lost Sheep, Coin, and Son"

- How does it feel to imagine yourself as the lost sheep, coin, or son in these parables? What do these stories reveal about God's heart for the lost? Who in your life might need to know they're never too far gone to be pursued by God?
- Why do you think Jesus spent so much time with people others rejected? How can you reflect that same heart in your own relationships?
- Which character do you most relate to in the parable of the prodigal son: the younger son, the older brother, or the father?
- What kind of joy have you experienced in seeing someone return to faith or find Jesus for the first time?

#### Read [John 3:1-8](#) – "Jesus and Nicodemus"

- In the sermon, Pastor Mike said Jesus compares the Spirit to the wind—something you can't see, but you can feel. What does this tell us about how God works in our lives? Why do you think Jesus chose this metaphor for spiritual transformation?
- Nicodemus was a respected religious leader, yet he still had questions and needed to start fresh. What does this reveal about spiritual growth and humility? How do you respond when your faith is challenged to go deeper or in a new direction?
- Jesus said being "born of the Spirit" is essential for life in God's kingdom. Where have you seen the Spirit's renewing work?

### APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week ...

- This week, reflect daily on one teaching from Matthew 5:1-12 and ask God to show you how that upside-down blessing could shape your attitude, priorities, or response to difficulty. Write it down or pray it aloud each morning.
- Choose one teaching of Jesus that challenges your assumptions or habits, such as loving your enemies, releasing judgment, or trusting God's provision. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live it out practically in one relationship or situation this week.
- Find time to reread one Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) during this Lenten season, asking God to reveal the radical Jesus, not the comfortable or culturally conformed version. As you read, underline or journal moments that surprise or unsettle you—then ask: Am I ready to follow this Jesus?