



Sermon on the Mount
RAISE THE BAR

Life Groups Discussion Guide
January 12, 2020

FULFILLMENT Matthew 5:17–20

CONNECT

1. Like a high jumper who raises the bar after each successful jump at a track and field competition, have you ever experienced the “bar” being raised? Did it stretch you in unexpected ways—perhaps at work, in school or in a relationship? Why does that experience stand out?

CELEBRATE

2. Read Matthew 5:17–20. When Jesus speaks of the Law and the Prophets, what is He referring to? What are common assumptions you have about how Jesus relates to the Law and Prophets of the Old Testament?
3. The word “fulfill” in Matthew 5:17 suggests something abounding, being filled to the brim or being completed. In what way does Jesus complete or cause the super-abounding of the Law and the Prophets? Or, put another way: How does Jesus raise the bar for all that the Law and Prophets represent? What might that imply for us today?
4. Read 2 Timothy 3:14–17. Correlate this with Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:18. What do these passages say about the Bible? See Psalm 19:7–8 & 119:105, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Peter 1:19–21.

CONTRIBUTE

5. Review 1 Samuel 16:7 which references the prophet Samuel’s search for Israel’s future king. What value is spoken of there and how does that influence our thinking about obedience, faithfulness and being a follower of Jesus? See Matthew 23:25–28.
6. With the previous question in mind, read Matthew 5:20. In what way might participation in the kingdom of heaven (God) require an allegiance that is greater than the scribes and Pharisees who were noted for their profound religious scruples?
7. Read Romans 8:1–4. What do these words tell you about living as citizens in the kingdom of God? What does it look like to “walk . . . according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:4)? What keeps you from doing that today?