



Sermon on the Mount  
**RAISE THE BAR**

**Life Groups Discussion Guide**  
January 26, 2020

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**LUST** Matthew 5:27–30

1. Throughout this message series, we see that Jesus pursues our hearts. How do you react to the thought of Him exposing everything in your heart? What goal is He after? See John 10:10.
2. Why is Jesus unwilling to leave these matters at the level of external obedience? What does He desire? See 1 Samuel 15:22, Psalm 51:16–17, Jeremiah 7:22–23 & Joel 2:12–13.
3. Responsibility doesn't lie with someone you perceive as immodest, it lies with you. Jesus places the burden on the beholder, not the one being beheld. How does this change the nature of the problem? What does it require of you?
4. Our culture explains lust away as a victimless crime. Yet there is a victim. According to Matthew 5:29–30, who is the one in danger from lust?
5. Jesus speaks to an audience who believes in God and seeks Messiah, yet He warns them that their lust could place them in hell. Does He leave any room for tolerating lust? Read Romans 8:12–13 & Colossians 3:5–8. What does it look like to live these verses out?
6. Only Jesus fully satisfies. Take stock of your life over this past week. On a scale of 1 (empty) to 10 (full), how satisfied do you feel in Christ? What can you do this next week to experience more of Christ and raise your satisfaction in Him? Consider the emphasis from the message to “gaze, grab and go.”
7. Jesus raises the bar, commanding clean hearts. But we can't force ourselves to become clean. Where do we get the strength to accomplish it? How do we not only fight this battle, but win it? See Philippians 2:13, then Titus 2:11–14. See also Ezekiel 36:26–27, Romans 6:16–18 & 1 John 5:3–5.
8. How can we help each other fight these heart-level battles? As a group, discuss how to strengthen and support each other while yearning to be more like Christ. Together, how can you see Christ as more and more satisfying?
9. If you are in the midst of sexual sin, take this opportunity to tell someone and find help. Jesus offers freedom, forgiveness and cleansing to all who come to Him in repentance. To pursue further freedom, contact 763-971-5123 or [care@newhopechurchmn.org](mailto:care@newhopechurchmn.org).