



**HOPEWELL MB CHURCH**  
**VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**  
**OVERVIEW STUDY GUIDE**

The following information is provided for participants who wish to study the lesson beforehand. The study materials are part of the **International Sunday School Lesson**, excerpted from the **Union Gospel Press Sunday School book**.

Classes will be held each Sunday Morning @ 8:30, prior to regular Sunday Morning Worship Service. Lesson discussion material will be rotated weekly amongst the various Target Groups (Adult Women, Adult Men, Young Adult, Youth) in an effort to include all ages in this lesson series.

In order to gain a better understanding of the lesson, it is recommended that, prior to each lesson, participants read through the **Lesson Text, Related Scriptures, Daily Bible Reading** scriptures (each day), try to answer the **Discussion Questions**, and make a note of any additional questions you may have. Prayer and meditation are always essential in gaining a better understanding of God's Word and its relevance to your life and situation.

**June 2023**

**UNIT I: Understanding God's Kingdom**

**All lessons this month will focus on God's kingdom**

**WEEK 1-Upside Down Kingdom:** This lesson highlights Jesus' Beatitudes compared to the secular viewpoint

**WEEK 2- A Perfect Kingdom:** This lesson is also from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which highlights a kingdom that fulfills God's law.

**WEEK 3- A Victorious Kingdom :** This lesson examines how God's kingdom is victorious over worldly kingdoms

**WEEK 4- Growing God's Kingdom:** This lesson examines three parables about how God's kingdom grows

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**DATE OF LESSON:** June 4, 2023

**LESSON TITLE:** Upside Down Kingdom

**LESSON TEXT:** Matthew 5:1-16

**RELATED SCRIPTURES:** Psalm 24:1-6; Isaiah 66:1-2; Luke 6:20-26; Hebrews 11:36-38

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled"* (Matthew 5:6)

**TARGET AGE GROUP:** This week's discussion is taken from the **Adult Bible Class** book.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who was listening to Jesus at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, and how did that change?
2. What three basic types of followers do we see in Jesus' ministry?
3. What is the true meaning of "blessed" in these verses?
4. What does "poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3) refer to?
5. What is the meek person like?
6. What does it mean to "hunger and thirst after righteousness" (vs. 6)?
7. What is it about us that keeps us from being naturally merciful, and why should showing mercy be important to us?
8. What are the characteristics of a peacemaker?
9. What three pictures illustrate the effect we should have on the world?
10. Why did Jesus not say we should be lights in this world?

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

(Readings are for the week leading up to the lesson)

M- Comforted by Repentance (II Corinthians 7:8-13)

T- Humility Draws God's Attention (Isaiah 66:1-2)

W- New Heaven and New Earth (Revelations 21:1-4)

Th- Suffering Prophets (Hebrews 11:36-38)

F- Who Receives God's Blessings? (Psalm 24:1-6)

Sa- The Beatitudes (Luke 6:20-26)

Su- Who Are Kingdom Citizens? (Matthew 5:1-16)

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**DATE OF LESSON:** June 11, 2023

**LESSON TITLE:** A Perfect Kingdom

**LESSON TEXT:** Matthew 5:17-18, 21-22, 27-28, 38-39, 43-44

**RELATED SCRIPTURES:** Acts 14:8-18; Romans 9:30-10:4; I Corinthians 3:11-15; James 2:10-13

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill "* (Matthew 5:17)

**TARGET AGE GROUP:** This week's discussion is taken from the **Young Adult Bible Class** book.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did some incorrectly assume about Jesus' intent concerning the law?
2. What did Jesus underscore through His work on the cross?
3. What did Jesus say one was worthy of if he became angry with someone without a cause?
4. How did Jesus stress that He wanted virtue to undergird our lives?
5. What was involved in the law regarding retaliation?
6. How had the religious leaders distorted the command to love one's neighbor?
7. How can we become reflectors' of God's virtue and holiness?

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

(Readings are for the week leading up to the lesson)

M- Unbelieving Israel (Romans 9:30-10:4)

T- Building on the Foundation of Christ (I Corinthians 3:11-15)

W- Mercy Over Judgement (James 2:10-13)

Th- Common Grace (Acts 14:8-18)

F- God Hates Evil (Psalm 5:4-8)

Sa- Understanding God's Laws (Matthew 5:31-37)

Su- God's Standard for His Kingdom (Matthew 5:17-18, 21-22, 27-28, 38-39, 43-44)

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**DATE OF LESSON:** June 18, 2023

**LESSON TITLE:** A Victorious Kingdom

**LESSON TEXT:** Mark 3:13-19; 6:6b-13

**RELATED SCRIPTURES:** Matthew 10:1-15; 12:22-32; Luke 11:14-23; I John 5:14-17

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *“He ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach”* (John 5:24)

**TARGET AGE GROUP:** This week’s discussion is taken from the **Senior High School Bible Class** book.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus appoint twelve men to be His disciples?
2. Who was Simon, and what was characteristic of him?
3. What would later distinguish Judas Iscariot from the rest of the Twelve?
4. Why did Jesus send the Twelve out in pairs?
5. Why did Jesus instruct the Twelve to take minimum supplies for their journey?
6. How were the Twelve to respond to those who rejected their message?
7. What was the point of the Twelve anointing many sick people with oil?

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

(Readings are for the week leading up to the lesson)

M- A House Divided (Matthew 12:22-32)

T- Jesus Overpowers Satan (Luke 11:14-23)

W- Sin That Leads to Death (I John 5:14-17)

Th- The Twelve Are Sent (Matthew 10:1-15)

F- The Seventy-Two Sent (Luke 10:1-12)

Sa- Lord of the Sabbath (Luke 6:1-5)

Su- Authority Over Satan (Mark 3:13-29; 6:6b-13)

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**DATE OF LESSON:** June 25, 2023

**LESSON TITLE:** Growing God's Kingdom

**LESSON TEXT:** Matthew 13:24-33

**RELATED SCRIPTURES:** Daniel 2:24-47; Matthew 13:36-43; Mark 4:26-32; Luke 13:18-21

**GOLDEN TEXT:** *"Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of the Harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn"* (Matthew 13:30)

**TARGET AGE GROUP:** This week's discussion is taken from the **Adult Bible Class** book.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What preceded the parable of the tares?
2. Are "kingdom of heaven" and "kingdom of God" the same or different? Explain
3. What are some differences between the parable of the sower and the parable of the tares?
4. What were tares? How did they get into the field in Jesus' parable?
5. What do the tares represent?
6. What dangers were involved in uprooting the tares? How can this be applied today?
7. What point was Jesus making with the parable of the tares?
8. What interpretations have been given concerning the birds in the mustard plant?
9. What was the main point of the parable of the mustard seed?
10. How is the parable of the leaven both different from and similar to the mustard seed parable?

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

(Readings are for the week leading up to the lesson)

M- Small Beginnings (Mark 4:26-32)

T- Increasing Influence (Luke 13:18-21)

W- Setting Up God's Kingdom (Daniel 2:24-47)

Th- The Returning Christ (Matthew 24:29-31)

F- Evil Removed From the World (Matthew 13:36-43)

Sa- The Final Harvest (Revelations 14:14-20)

Su- Good and Evil Grow Together (Matthew 13:24-33)