

**Lesson #1-20***Sermon on the Mount*

Matthew 5:1-20

**Key Verse:**

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.”

Matthew 5:14

**The Point:**

Jesus teaches us who we are and how to live.

**Unit Theme (January 27—February 10)**

Learning to Follow

**The Great Reversal**

*Discovering the great reversal of the kingdom of heaven.*

**Supplies:**

- † Supplies for any game that has clear winner(s) and loser(s)

**Preparation:**

1. Select a game you know participants will enjoy. This could be anything from a favorite card or board game to holding a relay race. The actual game itself does not matter as long as there is a clearly defined “winner(s)” and “loser(s).”

**Instructions:**

1. Introduce the game.
2. Play the game with the usual rules.
3. At the end of the game announce the winner, but instead of declaring the person who finished in the usual winner’s place, announce the name of the person who supposedly “lost.”

4. **Matthew’s Gospel introduces a kingdom of heaven that reverses the idea of who is in control.**
5. Use the following questions as discussion starters:
  - **How did it feel when you had lost the game to then be declared the winner?**
  - **How did it feel to work hard to win only to find out that someone else was going to be given the prize?**
  - **How was the announcement both good news and bad news?**
  - **What might make someone hearing this news uncomfortable?**
  - **Would you have played the game differently if you knew that finishing in first place did not matter?**
  - **How might a person live differently if they knew things might be reversed in God’s kingdom?**