



SERMON DISCUSSION LEADER'S GUIDE

Live by Jesus's Code | Keith Simon | October 4, 2026

Workbook Review

- What did you learn about your identity in Christ from your reflection in week 3?
- What are the false selves you're tempted to live out instead of being in Christ?
- What key identity statement—a specific truth about who you are that combats your false self—have you chosen to meditate on?

Icebreaker: On the New York Times Top 100 TV shows since 2000, *Breaking Bad* and *The Wire* claimed first and second place on the list. What show do you think should have been the number one spot?

Sermon Discussion

1. Whether they realize it or not, everyone lives by a code. Keith referenced the culture's code: "Blessed are the... successful, the influential, the beautiful, the rich, the winners, the powerful."

How do you see this unspoken cultural code playing out in the world around you? What sort of person does this code influence you to become?

Matthew 5:3-10

³ *Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

⁴ *Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

⁵ *Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*

⁶ *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.*

⁷ *Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

⁸ *Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God. ...*



LIVING WITH PURPOSE

⁹ *Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*

¹⁰ *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹ *Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

2. How are the values expressed in the Beatitudes different than the culture's code? What sort of person does Jesus's code influence you to become?
3. When you become a Christian, your new character shapes your new behavior. And Jesus explains what this change looks like in the Sermon on the Mount.

Keith explored questions that Jesus's code answers, such as:

- How do you respond when you don't get your way?
- How do you handle conflict?
- What are your motives behind efforts to be a "good Christian"?
- What power does money have over you?

Which of these stands out as a work-in-progress in your heart? Share an example of how you're struggling to live by Jesus's code in one of these areas in your life.

Matthew 5:45

... so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

4. According to Matthew 5:45, why should we live by Jesus's code for our life? How does this *why* shape your perspective on the "rules" God calls us to obey?



LIVING WITH PURPOSE

5. Knowing your code is especially important when you're under pressure. Whether you're living by Jesus's code is revealed when keeping it costs you something—when it moves from something you heard in church to a choice that you're willing to sacrifice for.

How have you experienced the cost of obeying God? Share an example of a time you had to sacrifice something in order to live by Jesus's code.

Sharing and Prayer

Keith left us with a question implicit in the conclusion of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount – are you building your life on solid rock or shifting sand (Matthew 7:24-27)? Is the code that Jesus lays out something you admire or something you live by?

In what area of your life are you being called to do something costly in order to obey God?

- How is the culture's code tempting you to respond?
- How does Jesus's code call you to respond instead?

Close in prayer, asking God for the strength and trust to respond the way he is calling you to.