

## THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM OF GOD

Matthew 5:17-32  
Week Three

Big Idea:  
Kingdom living always leads to the greatest good in our lives.

Kingdom living is about a heart change, not just a behavior change.

Kingdom living values people because they are made in God's image.

Kingdom living is marked by self-control.

## **Small Group Questions:**

- What stood out to you from the lecture?
- What were your key takeaways/questions from the assignment?
- When we are faithful in following God's commands, we may not always see external changes in our circumstances, but how have you seen your heart change as a result of living in obedience to God's Word?
- In what ways have you experienced this relationship between righteousness and grace in your life? How do you respond when you are made aware of sin in your life? How does God's grace empower you in kingdom living?
- How does seeing each person as being made in God's image change how we interact with people?
  - With strangers
  - With your community (teachers, coworkers, neighbors)
  - With friends
  - With family
- How does the hope of heaven and the future good God has in store give you hope today?

## **Preparing for next week:**

Read Matthew 5:33-48 several times this week.

As you read, consider these questions:

- Anything confusing or surprising to you about this passage?
- Jesus is teaching about the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven--and it's an upside-down Kingdom. In what ways is this week's reading at odds with what his listeners might have expected? How is it counter-cultural?