

## **LIFEGROUP NOTES: MATTHEW 5:17-20**

*As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.*

### **Preparing for God's Word**

1. What has been your experience of reading the Old Testament? Do you regularly read from the Old Testament? Why or why not? What have you found helpful? What has been unhelpful or difficult? Why?

### **Read Mt 5:17-20**

2. What does Jesus say about His relationship to what we know as the Old Testament (v.17-18)? Why do you think that Jesus stresses that he did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets? In what sense does Jesus fulfil them? Compare Luke 24:27,44. Can you see how the Old Testament leads us to Jesus?
3. Do you see any tendencies in the church today that lower our view of the Old Testament, or that effectively "abolish" it from our Christian faith? What might we do to counter this?
4. When are you most tempted to set aside God's commands - perhaps even encouraging others to do the same (5:19)? What does Jesus say are the consequences of turning away from God in this way? How can we help one another to stay true to God's word?
5. See v.20. In the remainder of the chapter (as we'll see in coming weeks), Jesus rebukes those whose devotion to God is skin-deep (vv.21-48). What kind of thing counts as evidence that Jesus has really changed our hearts? Can you see this fruit in your own life?
6. Do you value the Scriptures like Jesus does, and are you hungering to obey them as the high road to freedom and joy (see Ps 19:7-8)? How can we grow in our love and appreciation for God's word, not least the Old Testament? If you struggle with reading and applying God's word, have you talked to anyone about it? Who could help you grow to be a true man or woman of the Word?

### **• Responding in Prayer**

Read Ps 1:1-3 and pray to be this kind of person / group of people.

*Eddie Larkman, January 2017*