



# ANOTHER DIMENSION

Jesus' picture of  
life from the  
Sermon on the mount



Teacher's manual by Rhonda Watson

## Program overview

| Lesson   | Theme   | Key relationship                      | Lesson aim   | Learning Outcomes<br>Students will:  |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Background to Matthew and Sermon on the Mount</b></p> | <p>This lesson introduces students to Matthew's Gospel and looks ahead to central themes in future lessons.</p> |                                       | <p>To introduce the students to the Gospel of Matthew and alert them to key issues that will be explored in the lessons to follow.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• know some basic information about Matthew's Gospel</li> <li>• understand how the Sermon on the Mount fits into the whole story of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel</li> <li>• express some questions they might have about Jesus and his teaching.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Who am I trying to impress?</b></p> <p>Matthew 5:1-12</p>        | <p>The people God favours</p>   | <p>My relationship with God</p>       | <p>To help the students understand that God favours, or blesses, people who seek to be humble and dependent on him.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• express their own ideas about what 'impresses' God</li> <li>• know the characteristics of those favoured by God as described by Jesus in Matthew 5:3-12</li> <li>• understand that the way into God's kingdom begins with realising how much we need God's help</li> <li>• understand that Jesus came to give his life as a ransom for those who know they need God's forgiveness</li> <li>• describe how living on the basis of Matthew 5:3-11 could affect their daily lives</li> <li>• express their own response to Jesus' teaching.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Do I stand out?</b></p> <p>Matthew 5:13-16</p>                   | <p>Salt and light</p>   | <p>My relationship with the world</p> | <p>To help the students understand that Jesus' followers should stand out from the rest of the world and to explore some of the ways in which we might expect their lives to be different.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• know that Jesus challenges his followers to be different to the rest of the world</li> <li>• understand that followers of Jesus will act in ways that preserve what is good in our culture</li> <li>• understand that followers of Jesus will act in ways that shine a light on what is not good in our culture</li> <li>• consider why the offer of forgiveness is such an important part of being a follower of Jesus</li> <li>• be challenged to consider whether their own lives lead others to praise and thank God.</li> </ul>                |

## Program overview

| Lesson  | Theme                   | Key relationship            | Lesson aim  | Learning Outcomes<br>Students will:  |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| <p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>What's going on beneath the surface?</b></p> <p>Matthew 5:21–30</p> | Anger and lust          | My relationship with others | To help students understand that God cares about our attitudes as much as our actions and to explore what Jesus taught about anger and lust.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>know that God takes our wrong attitudes seriously</li> <li>understand the impact anger and lust can have on our relationships with one another</li> <li>consider what action we can take to deal with anger and lust</li> <li>consider God's offer of forgiveness and help.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Love for my enemy?</b></p> <p>Matthew 5:38–48</p>                   | Love, even for my enemy | My relationship with others | To explore what Jesus teaches about how his disciples are to show gracious and generous love towards others, even their enemies.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>know that Jesus tells his followers to be like God who is gracious and generous, even towards his enemies</li> <li>explore what Jesus means when he says we are to love our enemies</li> <li>understand the steps involved in forgiving someone who has hurt us</li> <li>be challenged to consider what difference it might make to put this into practice in their own lives.</li> </ul>                           |
| <p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>An audience of one?</b></p> <p>Matthew 6:1–15</p>                   | God sees me             | My relationship with God    | To challenge the students to examine their relationship with God and to explore how this relationship expresses itself in prayer and seeking God's approval above the opinions of others. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be challenged to consider the 'outward behaviours' they use to try to impress others</li> <li>know that prayer is the expression of a personal relationship with God our Father</li> <li>understand the teaching of Jesus to trust God with all our needs and concerns</li> <li>explore why it can be so hard to trust God</li> <li>be challenged to consider making life choices with only God in mind.</li> </ul> |

## Program overview

| Lesson   | Theme                 | Key relationship                           | Lesson aim   | Learning Outcomes<br>Students will:   |
|--|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| <p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>What do I want more than anything else?</b></p> <p>Matthew 6:19–34</p> | <p>One master</p>     | <p>My relationship with my possessions</p> | <p>To help students explore Jesus' challenge that his followers are to treasure God's kingdom above everything else.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• know that everyone serves and treasures something</li> <li>• know that Jesus' disciples cannot serve both God and something else</li> <li>• be challenged to consider what it is that they treasure more than anything else</li> <li>• understand that what we worry about reveals a lot about both our treasure and our relationship with God</li> <li>• express their response to Jesus' challenge that his followers seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>What is my life's foundation?</b></p> <p>Matthew 7:24–27</p>           | <p>One foundation</p> | <p>My relationship with Jesus</p>          | <p>To explore the way Jesus and his words provide a foundation for life.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• know that if we recognise the identity and authority of Jesus we will seek to put his words into practice</li> <li>• understand that Jesus says true wisdom is obeying him and the alternative is foolishness</li> <li>• be challenged to consider Jesus' claim to have the right to tell us what is wise or foolish</li> <li>• express their own response to the challenge to be a disciple of Jesus.</li> </ul>  |



# LESSON 6

## WHAT DO I WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE?

Matthew 6:19-34



**THEME**

One master

**KEY RELATIONSHIP**

My relationship with my possessions

**KEY QUESTION**

What do I want more than anything else?

**BIBLE PASSAGE**

Matthew 6:19-34

**AIM**

- To help students explore Jesus' challenge that his followers are to treasure God's kingdom above everything else.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of this lesson the students should:

- know that Jesus' disciples can only serve one master and love one treasure
- be challenged to consider what it is that they treasure more than anything else
- understand that what we worry about reveals a lot about our relationship with God
- express their response to Jesus' challenge that his followers seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness.

**LESSON 6 POWERPOINTS**

**1. Key questions:**

- Do you think having lots of money and possessions can make a person happy?
- What do you think people spend their time worrying about?

**2. Text for Matthew 6:19-24; Matthew 6:25-34**

**BACKGROUND NOTES**

It's always a telling experience to consider truthfully what we long for more than anything else. In our consumerist culture we are bombarded with marketing messages that tell us we need more possessions, experiences and money; or we need new possessions, new technology and new relationships. The pressure to consume is unceasing. For adolescents, the issue is even more acute for it is often a period of intense longings for acceptance and approval and a sense of achievement.

For these reasons, this part of the Sermon on the Mount has particular relevance both to us as teachers, and to our students. The key question for all of us, whether followers of Jesus or not, is, 'What do I want more than anything else?' The answer to this question will determine how we spend our time, the direction our life will take, what we worry about (and the degree to which we worry) and ultimately, according to Jesus, our eternity.

The first part of this lesson explores such issues by engaging with Jesus' words, 'You cannot serve both God and money'. It's a matter of where our hearts are leaning: are we 'God-ward' or 'earth-ward' in our longings?

It is important to paint a clear and attractive picture for the students of the positive and rich experience described in the Bible of being a follower of Jesus. There's more involved than simply giving up earthly treasures and counting the cost. There are deep and meaningful treasures that come as a part of being a follower of Jesus. Encourage the students to see this.

The second passage in this lesson is another aspect of having hearts that are 'God-ward'. The issue of what causes us worry and anxiety is another clue to what we focus on and most long for. Jesus claims here that the key to letting go of our tendency to worry and fret is to grow in our appreciation of the love and power of God. The more we grow to trust him, Jesus says simply, the less we will worry.

## LESSON NOTES

### Get started

Begin by discussing the Key questions with the class.

Look briefly at the cartoon on the title page of Lesson 6 and ask the students to write their responses to questions 1 and 2. Discuss their answers briefly.

### Engage

Read **Matthew 6:19–34**.

Summarise the key points of the passage.

Spend some time discussing the differences between earthly and heavenly treasure. Explore the notion that some treasure is lasting and other treasures are temporary.

The verses about the eye speak to whether we seek worldly or godly treasure. What we keep in view and follow guides the body. If the eye is following the healthy (generous) things of God, it will lead to gracious and generous action. If the eye is ungenerous and stingy and fixated on worldly and temporal things, it will lead us into darkness.

**The crunch.** Spend time unpacking the idea of what we organise our lives around. Students could create a rough pie graph of the way they spend their time or money. They could describe a typical weekend and this would help focus on what they organise their lives around.

Read the case study of David Livingstone and discuss what his life reveals about what he valued most and where his motivation came from. Students might explore the possibilities of what could be said about their own life (see Extra resource 3 on page 69).

Read **Matthew 6:25–34** with the students.

Use questions 11–14 to unpack this passage and engage the students in thinking about what most causes them worry and anxiety. When discussing this be aware that some students may not be completely relaxed about sharing their responses. Read the paragraph above question 14 and explore the reassurance we have as followers of Jesus to know that God is our loving heavenly Father. Share how you find this a great encouragement.

### Seek first

It's important to remember that Jesus' command 'Do not worry about your life' (v 25) makes no sense without an eternal perspective. If we are honest with ourselves, we know our worldly treasures are perishable and can be lost. Moreover, something in us also knows that they will not ultimately satisfy. However, Jesus says God promises two things. Firstly, we are more precious to him than anything else in creation (v 26). Secondly, that if we make him our treasure, he will give us everything—eternal life, everything we need in this life, and, if we remember these things, escape from worldly worry (vv 31–34).

This is extreme and radical and exciting and liberating. Knowing God loves us and 'has our back' is key to chasing after the right treasure and living righteous lives.

### Off ramp: World poverty

The *Off ramp: World poverty* deals with the questions raised for some people on reading Matthew 6:31–33. In these verses Jesus tells his followers not to worry but to trust in God's provision. Some students may ask—If God promises that, why are there many Christians around the world suffering, in need and even starving?

When we also read **Matthew 25:41–46** and **James 2:14–17** it becomes clear that we are to be the answer to that question. The sobering truth is that those of us who have more than enough are supposed to be sharing with those who don't have enough. That's how God plans to meet the needs of his children. We are responsible for our obedience or disobedience to this command.

Some questions that could guide your students' research of the Christians listed might include:

- What difference did they make through their work?
- Why did they do what they did?
- What do you find confronting in their life?
- What do you find appealing?
- Could you see yourself loving and serving others in this way? Why/why not?
- If you wished to serve in this way, where would you find your strength?

The command to seek first God's kingdom is a radical and challenging teaching from Jesus. After discussing what this might mean in our lifestyle decisions and attitudes, allow the students to respond honestly.

### Wrap up

Wrap up the lesson by reminding students of the riches involved in being part of God's kingdom. Remind them of the eternal treasures Christians have of being forgiven and loved by their heavenly Father, of eternal life and assurance of God's acceptance. Conclude with the reminder that Christians can trust their heavenly Father to care for them, and hand over to him the things they most worry about.

Pray for the class.

## EXTENSION IDEAS

### Extension idea 1

#### Modern paraphrase—Extra resource 1

Read the modern paraphrase from *The Message* of **Matthew 6:19–21** as shown on Extra resource 1 on page 67. Discuss the questions with the students.

### Extension idea 2

#### What matters most?—Extra resource 2

Read the newspaper article on Extra resource 2 on page 68 about Schapelle Corby's lawyer who quit her case, partly to get more money so he could buy some new cars.

Explore with the students what his behaviour reveals about what matters most to him. This appears to be a blunt example on the surface, but perhaps also encourage students to consider the lawyer's lack of concern over his public image. What might have led him to be so boldly materialistic? What does this say about how he values people (let alone what God might think)?

### Extension idea 3

#### Stop worrying—Extra resource 3

Read the short article on Extra resource 3 on page 69 (which has been reprinted from the magazine *Good Medicine*).

- Discuss the advice given in the article.
- How different is it to Jesus' words?
- How could being a follower of Jesus make it easier to stop worrying?

### Extension idea 4

#### My life story—Extra resource 4

After reading the short biography of David Livingstone in the Student handbook, invite students to create their own life biography using Extra resource 4 on page 70, as if it had been written ten years after their death. What would they like to see written about themselves? What do they hope to achieve and be remembered for? What are their 'treasures' and how have they influenced their life? Encourage them to think about relationships as much as achievements.

### Extension idea 5

#### What shall we wear?

Collect a range of magazines and newspapers, which are focused on fashion. Discuss with the class how much money and effort goes into trying to convince us to stay worried about 'what shall we wear?'

Discuss how this pressure affects us. Consider Jesus' advice and whether it would free us to follow his teaching and not be so focused on what we wear. Is this more of an issue for females or are guys just as pressured to wear the 'right' thing?

Discuss if it would really be possible to go for one year without buying any new clothes.

### Extension idea 6

#### Debate

Debate this topic:

- We used to shop to live; now we live to shop.



ANOTHER DIMENSION  
LESSON 6  
EXTRA RESOURCE 1

# MODERN PARAPHRASE

## THE MESSAGE

Matthew 6:19-21, 24

A modern writer has  
paraphrased these verses:

DON'T HOARD TREASURE DOWN HERE WHERE IT GETS EATEN BY MOTHS AND CORRODED BY RUST OR—WORSE!—STOLEN BY BURGLARS. STOCKPILE TREASURE IN HEAVEN, WHERE IT'S SAFE FROM MOTHS AND RUST AND BURGLARS. IT'S OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT? THE PLACE WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, IS THE PLACE YOU MOST WANT TO BE AND END UP BEING.

YOUR EYES ARE THE WINDOWS INTO YOUR BODY. IF YOU OPEN YOUR EYES WIDE IN WONDER AND BELIEF, YOUR BODY FILLS UP WITH LIGHT. IF YOU LIVE SQUINTY-EYED IN GREED AND DISTRUST, YOUR BODY IS A DANK CELLAR. IF YOU PULL THE BLINDS ON YOUR WINDOWS, WHAT A DARK LIFE YOU WILL HAVE!

YOU CAN'T WORSHIP TWO GODS AT ONCE. LOVING ONE GOD, YOU'LL END UP HATING THE OTHER. ADORATION OF ONE FEEDS CONTEMPT FOR THE OTHER. YOU CAN'T WORSHIP GOD AND MONEY BOTH.

 **Discuss**

- What sorts of earthly treasures are destroyed by moths and rust or stolen by burglars?
- What are some ways we can live our lives 'squinty-eyed in greed and distrust'? Why might people live this way?
- Do you agree that you can't worship God and money? Explain your opinion.

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ANOTHER DIMENSION  
LESSON 6  
EXTRA RESOURCE 2

# WHAT MATTERS MOST?

Read the following newspaper article  
taken from *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

## Corby's lawyer quits to buy new Ferrari

**January 25, 2006**

Schapelle Corby's flamboyant Jakarta lawyer has quit the case just days after Indonesia's highest court threw out her appeal against her drug-smuggling conviction.

Hotman Paris Hutapea said he had been volunteering his time to defend the 28-year-old Gold Coast woman but now wanted to devote his energy to cases that would make him money—and lots of it.

'I want to buy the new model Ferrari. So, I have to make more money now', said the self-proclaimed playboy who is renowned for the diamonds and the pistols he wears under his designer suits.

'I'm getting bored of all my old cars.'

Hutapea joined Corby's legal team on a no-fee basis late last year and secured a five-year sentence cut on appeal to Bali's High Court.

However, his flamboyant style failed to impress Indonesia's Supreme Court in Jakarta. Last week, it reinstated Corby's original 20-year sentence to the delight of the prosecutors.

Hutapea said he sent a letter to Corby and her Bali lawyer Erwin Siregar yesterday informing them of his resignation.

Hutapea said he will now get back to enjoying his glitzy lifestyle.

'I have everything that every man dreams of', he said.

'I work from 6 am to 6 pm. Then I go to the best hotels and I find the best bottle of wine, of course, with a beautiful movie star.

'That's a pretty good life, isn't it?'

'I am a playboy, but I am always a good husband and father when they need me.'

**AAP**

### **Discuss**

What does this lawyer's behaviour reveal about what matters most to him?

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ANOTHER DIMENSION  
LESSON 6  
EXTRA RESOURCE 3

# STOP WORRYING

Read the article below which has been reprinted from the magazine *Good Medicine*.

For some, worrying is part of their psychological make-up. But there's a limit, and the first step is learning how to put the brakes on. So, when you're feeling anxious and can't get worrying out of your mind, try these tactics:

- Ask yourself if your worries will matter in a year's time. You'll probably answer no. This will help you gain some perspective and the problem will be less likely to consume you.
- Take a deep breath, look up at the sky and tell yourself that everything will work out okay.
- Write your worries down in order of priority. This may help you see them in a new light.
- Some things you just can't change so there's no point worrying about them. Keep telling yourself to 'accept the things you can't change' until you feel some relief.

? How different is the advice above to Jesus' words?

? How could being a follower of Jesus make it easier to stop worrying?

ANOTHER DIMENSION  
LESSON 6  
EXTRA RESOURCE 4

# MY LIFE STORY

After reading the short biography of David Livingstone, create your own biography, as it might be written ten years after your death.

Think about what you would like to see written about yourself.

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What do you hope to achieve and be remembered for?

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What are your 'treasures' and how have they influenced your life?

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Think about relationships as much as achievements.

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