

## 5 The Kingdom Manifesto

**Read: Matthew 5—7.**

1. Karl Marx said “Religion is the opiate of the people.” What do you think he meant? Was he correct in his thinking? Can some Christians also be too other-worldly (that is, focusing mainly on heaven rather than on earth)?
2. Do you think it is helpful to view what is commonly known as the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5—7) as a manifesto for the Kingdom? Steve said that the Sermon on the Mount is probably the best known part of the teaching of Jesus and probably the least understood and the least obeyed. What do you think?
3. Do you struggle with what Jesus teaches through the beatitudes? Why?
4. Why is Matthew 5:20 a key point in the Kingdom Manifesto? Why is this such an amazing verse? How do you think those who first heard Jesus’ words would have reacted? What is your response to these words?
5. In which ways does Jesus “raise the bar” for citizens of the Kingdom? *(Note: the righteousness of the Pharisees was about not doing any wrong. The righteousness of the kingdom is about having a changed heart to do what is right).*
6. How literally should Christians read their Bibles? (Matthew 5:27-30)
7. Read Matthew 5:38-42. What did Jesus mean? Why is it important? Is this really possible?
8. Read Matthew 5:43-48. In which way do many people misquote Jesus’ saying: “The sun shines on the righteous”?
9. What does it mean to become a true follower of Jesus?