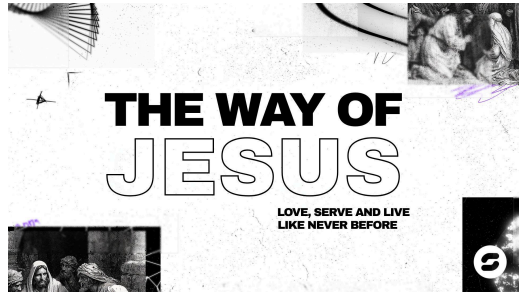


# STUDY GUIDE

November 23



## STAY IN THE LOOP

*Announcements*

- Come to our **Jingle Jam Christmas Market** in Kemptville this Saturday, November 29, 9am-3pm!
- Join our Ladies **“Sip and Chat”** weekly on Thursdays from 10-11:30am. Ladies come on out for a time of fellowship. No need to sign up. Coffee/tea available. (Winchester)

## START WITH PRAYER

*Use this Prayer Prompt*

Praise God for His transforming grace - that He not only calls us to a higher way of living but empowers us to become people shaped by His kingdom, His love, and His words. Ask God to help us guard our hearts and tongues, so that our words reflect His love rather than contempt, anger, or dismissal. Ask for courage and humility to seek reconciliation quickly wherever relationships have been strained, hurtful words have been spoken, or “small fires” need to be put out.

## STUDY THE BIBLE

*Think through and discuss your reactions as you read through Scripture:*

Matthew 5:21-26

James 3:5-6, 9

Matthew 22:37-40

## STIR UP DISCUSSION

*How does this week's teaching affect me personally?*

1. Jesus moves the command from a straightforward “*don’t kill*” to confronting anger, contempt, and careless words. Which part of Jesus’ deeper interpretation challenges you the most - your anger, your tone, or your internal attitudes toward others? Why?
2. James says the tongue can “set the whole course of one’s life on fire.” Can you think of a time your words - spoken or typed—either built someone up or lit a destructive “small spark”? What does this reveal about the kingdom values Jesus describes?
3. Jesus warns that even small acts of indifference, dismissal, or contempt can create fires that eventually consume us and our relationships. Where do you see these “small fires” showing up today - in your home, workplace, friendships, or church? How might you begin to extinguish them?
4. Jesus tells us to stop *worship* if we know someone has something against us and go make things right. What does this say about God’s priorities? Is there anyone you sense God nudging you to reconcile with, and what might a first step look like?
5. Jesus isn’t abolishing the law - He’s revealing its true intent. Where do you see the difference between following the *letter* of God’s commands and following the *spirit* of them in daily life? How might embracing the spirit of the law transform your relationships or habits this week?

## STEP INTO ACTION

*Let's try to apply this by taking some Next Steps.*

1. **Slow your speech this week.** Practice being “*quick to listen, slow to speak*” by pausing before responding - especially in moments of frustration or disagreement. Aim to let your words pass through the filter of love before they leave your mouth.
2. **Repair where needed.** If you sense you've hurt someone with anger, impatience, or dismissive words, take initiative to make it right. Send a message, make a call, or have a conversation - don't let small sparks become bigger fires.
3. **Speak life intentionally.** Each day, choose one person to encourage with a life-giving word, blessing, or affirmation. This trains your heart toward love and aligns your speech with the values of Jesus' kingdom.