

# DIVERGENT: *living the Sermon on the Mount*



Purpose: to live out the kingdom values of God found in the sermon like God's presence (light and love), redemptive deliverance, and restorative justice (mercy, peace and righteousness).

## → **What about God's covenant love?**

- Micah talked about God's covenant love as the foundation for all our relationships. It is first revealed in Genesis 12:1-9 and 15
  - READ Genesis 15
  - In this text, how does God show Abram that he will be present with him (and the people)? How does God prove he is for Abram and the people? What evidence does God give that he will see his promise through unto completion?
- This refrain of God's covenant love is repeated throughout Scripture.
  - God is with us (present). God is for us (greatest advocate). God remains faithful unto full redemption (fully formed into Christlikeness).
  - These three principles of love should be reflected in our relationships, especially with your spouse.
  - If you're married, how are you living out these three principles?
  - If you are single, how are you living out these principles with your friends?
  - As disciples, how are we living out these principles with our neighbor (that's anyone that God brings in our path)?

## → **What about the gouging of the eye and cutting off the hand?**

- READ Matthew 5:29-30
- How then does Jesus sabotage inappropriate desires? We must eliminate what tempts us to gaze (ongoing looking/envying) and lust after another.
- Think about these wise words of comparison by Simon Blackburn:
  - Love receives the world's applause. Lust is furtive, ashamed and embarrassed.
  - Love pursues good of other, with self-control, concern and patience. Lust pursues its own gratification, impatient of any control, immune to reason.
  - Love grows with knowledge and time, courtship, truth and trust. Lust is a trail of clothing in the hallway, the collision of two strangers.
  - Love lasts, lust cloys.
- How can we grow in our love for others and cut out our lustful tendencies?