



JOURNEY GROUPS

SEPT 21 LEADER GUIDE

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Make sure that you still gather everyone together and pray. We want prayer to be a big focus! Our goal is to be like Acts 2:42, where we are devoting ourselves to the Word, to fellowship, to breaking of bread, and to prayer! As always, continue to help people get to know one another!

A few notes for you as a leader as you begin again this week:

- Remember that one of our biggest priorities as leaders is to create a space for our people to engage, reflect, be challenged, and be open. Make sure that you are continuing to work towards that!
- Be thinking about fun things to do as a group, and also ways that you can serve as a group as well! Then get some things on the calendar!
- Be thinking: is there anyone in my group that needs a little extra love? Do they need a call from me as a leader or from someone at church?
- If you have people who haven't attended your group after this third week, please let Kyle know so that we can reach out to them!

SHARE

Ice Breaker Questions (use whichever questions you want):

- This week we are starting to dive into the most famous sermon ever given - the Sermon on the Mount. As you think about your faith journey, what is one message or sermon that had a big impact on you?
- What is a blessing in your life that you are very thankful for today?

*Don't forget about doing testimonies! If you need testimony prompts to go through as a group, please let us know and we will get you copies!

STUDY

Digging Deeper into "The Sermon on the Mount"

1. Early in his ministry, Jesus called disciples to follow him and he quickly went to work training them so that they would develop values and priorities that were kingdom focused. He also cared more about character than just having knowledge of the law. Why are kingdom values and Christian character so important to living a life that pleases God?
2. What does our world consider a blessed life?
3. To find out what Jesus considers a blessed life, let's read the Beatitudes. Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 5. Who would be willing to read verses 1-11 for us?
4. What sticks out to you from the eight beatitudes that we just read in contrast to our earlier list of what the world considers a blessed life?
5. On Sunday, Matt said that we are incredibly talented. We have a special knack of taking almost any good gift that God gives us and turning it into an idol. What is a gift or blessing in your life that you have to be careful to not let it turn into an idol that you worship?
6. Matt shared Pastor Chris Hilken's definition of a blessing with us on Sunday. Pastor Hilken said: "A blessing is something that always draws you nearer to God." And he said that: "there is no such thing as a blessing if it pulls you further from God." What do you think of these ideas?
7. Why would the beatitudes be contradictory to the teachings of the health, wealth and prosperity gospel? *(they teach that if you do certain things, you get material blessings)*
8. What kind of blessings are bigger and better than material blessings?
9. The first beatitude is the most important. Matt said that if we can't experience the reality of beatitude #1 we won't be able to sniff any of the other blessings. **Have someone read Matthew 5:3.**
10. What is the blessing you receive if you are poor in Spirit? *(you get it all, the kingdom, eternity with God, salvation, etc.)*

11. Poor in spirit means spiritual bankruptcy. In some ways, this beatitude is saying, "Blessed are you when you realize that you are spiritually bankrupt." Why is knowing that you are a terrible sinner who has racked up an unpayable sin debt a blessing?
12. When did you realize that you were a terrible sinner and that you deserved punishment for your sins?
13. If you haven't already talked about this yet, why is realizing that you are a terrible sinner who has racked up an unpayable sin debt the critical step in finding salvation in Jesus?
14. Let's talk about beatitude #2 next. **Have someone read Matthew 5:4.**
15. How can grieving your sin, provide fuel for repentance?
16. What comforts are available to us from God when we are in a season of painful grief or mourning?
17. Does anyone have a testimony of a time that they went through painful grief and God ministered to them?
18. What do you think you can take away from our conversation tonight that will help you be a better disciple this week?

PRAYER

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