

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Session 2

Reminders:

- Make sure to connect with each person in the group. Be sure everyone knows each other's names.
- You do not need to have all of the answers. And you do not need to get to all the questions. The idea is to create good discussion.
- Take the time to share prayer requests and pray for each other.

Keynotes from Session 2:

- Before Jesus challenges us to make life changes as disciples, He let's us know that we are blessed. Grace comes first - then the challenge to change.
- Jesus addresses people in all different places - hurt, empty, longing, etc. and we are meant to see ourselves in this crowd - Jesus addresses us too.

Questions for Discussion:

- When you have to talk to someone about changing their behavior, do you have an approach you usually take? For a co-worker, a spouse, a child? (For example, do you always start with a positive? Are you just clear and direct?)

Read Matthew 5:1-12 (potentially take turns reading these 12 verses)

- Notice that Jesus is blessing them & reframing their view of themselves before he starts into the rest of the sermon where he challenges their behavior.
- What stands out for you in this passage? What do you notice?
- Could you put one or two of these in your own words? Or into contemporary language?
- Scholars often group these into categories - how would you group them?
- One grouping is the blessing of those who are:
 - in want/longing (vs 3-6)
 - full & giving (vs 7-9)
 - hurt & persecuted (vs 10-11)If you had to put yourself in one of those groups, where would you fall & why?
- A blessing can be very powerful & we're called to bless others like Jesus blesses us (vs 13-16). Consider putting together a blessing for someone in your life (or potentially even do it for each other in your group). We've included some examples below:

Writing a Blessing:

A blessing usually includes:

- Words spoken (it's not a blessing if you don't give it to them)
- That affirm their identity and value (i.e. You are God's delight)
- Which give a vision of a hope filled future
- And an assurance of belonging and commitment
- All grounded in Christ's grace

Examples:

1. I bless you in the name of Jesus Christ.
You are deeply loved by God, fully known and fully accepted.
The Lord delights in you—not because of what you do, but because you are His.
I speak peace over your heart and clarity over your path.
May the grace of Jesus go before you, surround you, and carry you into a future filled with hope.
2. I bless you as God's beloved child.
You are a gift, created with purpose and joy.
You are not defined by your failures or fears, but by God's delight in you.
I speak courage into your life and confidence into your calling.
May you grow in wisdom, rest in grace, and always know that you are never alone.
3. You are loved, you belong, and you are covered by grace.
May today be marked by peace, strength, and the quiet assurance that God is with you.