



# Growth Group Discussion Guide

"Growing Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward"

*For the Week of February 26, 2017*

## Matthew 5:1-12

### The Beatitudes

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



## WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- How do you think the average person in our culture would define what it means to be blessed?

## Sermon Outline

- This weekend we studied the first section of the first of five sermons from Jesus in the book of Matthew.
- In this sermon, Jesus was targeting the scribes and Pharisees because they had been teaching people to focus on external rules rather than a change of heart.
- Jesus taught that righteousness doesn't come from obeying rules, but from relating to God and living out of that connection.
- The Beatitudes teach us what the life of a follower of Christ should look like, but it's important to understand that these are not things we should try to do, rather, they serve as more of a check-up to evaluate how close we are to God's heart and priorities.

Cont'd →

PRAYER REQUESTS:

WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

1. What did you take away from this week's sermon or Scripture passage?
2. This passage is very much for believers, but how can we relate these ideas to our desire to reach out to those who are currently not connected to Christ?
3. Which of these values do you feel are most lacking in your life?
4. Why do you think kingdom values are so opposite of earthly values?
5. What can you do in your life to better align your thinking and your desires with kingdom values? (Get specific)
6. In Luke 6:20-22 we see a similar set of teachings from Jesus, but there is also a list of corresponding "woes." Look up Luke 6:24-26 and share why you think Jesus says these things.
7. In response to the last question, are there any priorities you have that you now recognize are worldly priorities? How can you renew your mind (Rom. 12:2) so you can begin to live with kingdom values instead?
8. Share your thoughts from the past week about the "ForTheCreek" challenge. Have you been able to come up with four people or families that you feel God leading you to focus on?



Be sure to check out - [www.forthecreek.com](http://www.forthecreek.com) - and submit the four people you are investing in for the kingdom so we can join you in prayer.