



## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Series Theme:	The Gospel According to Peter
Text for the Week:	Matthew 5:1-11
Message for the Week:	The Mountain Message
Theme for the Week:	Characteristics of Kingdom Living

### Week 3

#### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

If you created a kingdom, what would it look like?

#### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

#### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Matthew 5:1-11](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## Respond / Reflect:

How are you becoming fluent in Kingdom-of-God language (the teaching of Jesus)?

How would the world be different if everyone lived into these Kingdom qualities described in the Beatitudes?

Who in your life exemplifies these Kingdom qualities described in the Beatitudes?

Which of the aspects of kingdom living, as Jesus describes in the Beatitudes, do you struggle with the most? The least?

How do you feel about the Beatitudes being an 'all-in-one' package for followers of Jesus and not a list from which a disciple can pick and choose?

How would you define the word blessed? How is being blessed different from being happy?

How should we go about using the word blessed as followers of Jesus?

## "Try It!"

Pastor Doug notes that the "...Beatitudes are ideally suited for memorization." This week, memorize the Beatitudes as a household.

## Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you.

Pray this prayer together:

*Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe for providing us with your Word in the flesh and in the Scripture. Thank You for Jesus' teaching and primer on the blessings of living in his Kingdom. In the middle of our trials and challenges, we thank you for the privilege of being the beneficiary of your great sacrifice, the recipient of all the blessings of your Kingdom, and your witness through our Kingdom living in this world. As citizens of your Kingdom may we find deep joy in our walk with you. In Jesus name, Amen.*

## Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Praying for Neighbors

During the season of Lent, we are encouraged to give something up to deepen our relationship with God and each other. Each day during the month of March, take time during your day from doing something else to pray for one of your neighbors. You could pray for a different neighbor each day of the week or for the same neighbor every day.

## Matthew 5:1-11 New International Version

### *Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount*

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

### *The Beatitudes*

He said:

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

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

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

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

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

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

## Matthew 5:1-11 New Living Translation

### *The Sermon on the Mount*

5 One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

### *The Beatitudes*

<sup>3</sup> "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,<sup>[a]</sup>  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>4</sup> God blesses those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> God blesses those who are humble,  
for they will inherit the whole earth.

<sup>6</sup> God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,<sup>[b]</sup>  
for they will be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> God blesses those who are merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> God blesses those whose hearts are pure,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> God blesses those who work for peace,  
for they will be called the children of God.

<sup>10</sup> God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>11</sup> "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.