



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE April 4

BIBLE PASSAGE Matthew 5

1. KNOW THE CONTEXT

Matthew chapters 5-7 are a collection of Jesus' most important teachings about how life with God really works.

This collection of teachings is known as the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus begins this sermon with a list of blessings that outline what makes a person truly blessed as they follow Jesus. This list can be a little confusing because some of them don't seem like blessings. So we will discuss how this list of blessings actually set up the frame work for a truly happy and blessed life.

Tonight we will spend time talking about the first group of people who are blessed, the Poor in Spirit.

2. READ THE BIBLE PASSAGE TOGETHER

3. SPEND TIME IN OBSERVATION

Which verses, ideas, or characters stuck out to you?
What questions could come from this passage?

Observation notes:

Questions:

4. SPEND TIME IN INTERPRETATION

What did this passage mean to the original audience?

What would it have felt like to be a character in this passage, and who in the passage is the hero/role model (if any)?

What's the main point of this passage?

Questions	Answers
Have you ever felt hopeless?	Where were you? What was going on in your life? How did you deal with feeling that way?
What brings you hope?	Are there songs you listen to when you need hope? Is there someone in your life who just lifts your mood? What is something that you do that brings you a sense of accomplishment and joy?
How would you describe the Kingdom of God?	The Kingdom of God is the place where what God wants done is done perfectly.
When we think of someone who is blessed who do we think of?	The Bible talks about the most unexpected people being blessed (Orphans, Widows, Conquered nations, the sick, and the poor).
What does it mean to be blessed?	It means that we are given something that we never thought possible. Something that must be a miracle. Nothing that we could have done but something that was done for us.
Why does Jesus call the Poor in Spirit blessed?	Because they need hope and hope has come to them in the form of the Kingdom of God.

5. SPEND TIME IN APPLICATION

What is the "universal truth" God wants to teach us from this passage?

How can we apply the message of this passage to our daily lives?

What are some ways we can find hope in God when we are feeling hopeless?

Take some time and reflect on some areas in your life that you need hope in?

Practice praying to God when you are feeling helpless and ask him to bring more of his kingdom into your life.

6. PRAY

Follow-up notes: