



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE April 11

BIBLE PASSAGE Matthew 5:4

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 why Jesus calls those who mourn blessed.

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
What makes you really sad?	A Romantic Comedy? Bullying? World Hunger? Sickness?
How would you define what it looks like to mourn?	Have the students explain their thoughts on this. Help students understand that mourning is the act of taking our sin, sadness, or brokenness that is within us and getting it out.
Do you think there are healthy ways to mourn?	Have students talk about this and help them by offering healthy options (ex. prayer, talking with a trusted friend, being real during small group).
What are some things that keep us from mourning in front of others?	If you have specific examples from your own life this is a great place to bring them up. (ex. fear of what others might think, doubt that anyone cares...)
Why would Jesus call those who mourn, blessed?	Because he when we get all the mess that is stored up inside of us out and give it to God or seek out our friends we will be comforted and relieved.

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?

Spend sometime this week in prayer asking God to remind you that He is close by.

If you are feeling like you need to mourn a sin or a messy situation then find someone you trust and spend time in prayer with them.

If you know anyone who is struggling reach out to them and remind them that you are on their team and that they matter to you and to God.

6. PRAY

Follow-up notes: