



Matthew: The Not Normal Kingdom

### LIFE CHECK-IN (10 minutes)

Take a few minutes to check-in with your Community, creating space for each person to answer the question below:

- What in your life can we celebrate with you right now?
- What can we be praying over and holding with you?

If the need arises, spend a few minutes praying for one another, asking God to meet needs and help each person carry what feels heavy right now.

## **OPENING PRAYER (5-7 minutes)**

Spend a few minutes listening for what God might be up to in your group.

## TEACHING SUMMARY (2-5 minutes)

This week Ryan continued our sermon series through the book of Matthew called "The Not Normal Kingdom". Take a moment to read Matthew 5:1-5 as a group out loud.

- How would your group summarize the teaching in their own words?
- Or, what stood out to you from the teaching?

# **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (20-30 minutes)**

- What kinds of pictures does the idea of "spiritual poverty" conjure up in your mind?
- What is your practice of mourning your sin currently like? What, if any, changes might you need to implement in this area?
- How do you feel the concepts of "meekness" and "grace" are connected? How have you seen this play out in your life?
- Jesus lists 3 rewards: the kingdom of heaven, comfort, and inheriting the earth. Which of these stands out the most to you and why?

- Which of these three steps of "engaging with the gospel" do you struggle with the most and why?
- The beatitudes are a way of saying, "fortunate", "blessed" or "happy" are those who fill in the blank? What do you think Jesus means by this? And, how have you experienced this in your life?

## PRAYER (5-7 minutes)

- Spend a few minutes praying for God's grace over each other, that we might become a people who make Jesus our Lord, and that there might be a sweeping renewal of the Holy Spirit in our city. Ask that God would stir up within us a desire to be with him in prayer and to serve him and our neighbor in love.
- Take a few minutes to quietly remember and pray for your three.

#### LEADER NOTES

These questions are a guide; feel free to use/exclude ones as people may have already answered the question or talked about the theme OR if your group takes a long time to tackle one particular theme it's ok to skip over questions in the interest of time/focus.