



Town + Field

CHURCH

Sunday, June 6

Leader Discussion Guide

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 Matt continued our sermon series through the book of Matthew called "The Not Normal Kingdom". Take a moment to read Matthew 5:6-9 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)

- Read Matthew 5:1-12. As the first major address of Jesus' public ministry, what makes His opening (the Beatitudes) so compelling?
- Focus on the word blessed. In our world today, what ways have you heard it used? How can Jesus' use of that word inform us of his intent behind the Beatitudes?
- In our society, many of the values highlighted in the Beatitudes are viewed as weakness. Jesus seems to say that these circumstances are not what defines you. Are there any of these that you personally identify with? And, how has God met you in that "weakness"?

- Consider a time when you were extremely thirsty. What emotions and desires did that stir within you?
 - What could that experience of thirst tell us about what it means to hunger and thirst for righteousness?
- Focus on the word mercy in Matthew 5:7. In what ways has mercy been given to you by God? By others?
 - How can you be a conduit of mercy as well?
- In a world of conflict, peace seems to often be in short supply. Jesus speaks of a possible remedy for this in the blessed peacemaker in Matthew 5:9. How would that have been heard by the Jewish zealots, who were revolutionaries intent on violently overthrowing Rome?

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.