

Week Two

God's Kingdom:
The Pursuit of LASTING Happiness
Participants Guide



CIRCLE UP

Introductions

Interactions

- Read Matthew 5:1-12 aloud, together.

Sunday's message was about God's Blessings and introduced "*The Beatitudes.*" The counterculture nature of the kingdom of God becomes immediately apparent when Jesus introduces His sermon. "Blessed" is not the way the world around us would react to experiences presented. At first blush, those descriptions feel more like a curse than a blessing.

1. What, from Sunday's message, spoke most to you and your life?
2. What new thing did you pick up about being "blessed."

DISCOVER Kingdom Principles

Jesus is describing who is "*blessed*" in the Kingdom of God. Another word for it is "*Happy.*" That is, as long as our "*happiness*" is not based on external things, people, or circumstances. True, LASTING happiness is an inside job. It is birthed and nourished deep within followers of Jesus. Then, it overflows into our actions and interactions, in life.

The order in which Jesus presented these eight attitudes is important. The first four (vs. 3-6) are different from the last four (vs. 7-10). They deal with two different relationships of the follower of Jesus.

3. Review vss. 3-6 and vss. 7-10. What relationship is the subject of each?
4. What is the significance of this discovery?

Some have said that these promises from Jesus build a stairway to heaven. They begin and end with the promise of participation in God's kingdom. Starting with the foundation of the most basic characteristic or our relationship with God, each one builds on the other to the most striking feature of followers of Jesus.

- Step 8 The Persecuted (vs. 10)
- Step 7 The Peacemakers (vs. 9)
- Step 6 The Pure (vs. 8)
- Step 5: The Merciful (vs 7)
- Step 4: The Righteousness (vs 6)
- Step 3: The Meek (vs. 5)
- Step 2: The Mourners (vs. 4)
- Step 1: The Poor in spirit (vs. 3)

- Together, determine which action from the list below best matches each beatitude represented above. Discuss any implications
 - a. Laying off the Junk Food
 - b. Stooping To Greatness
 - c. Correcting Your Vision
 - d. Joining Sinners Anonymous
 - e. Sharing Your Inheritance
 - f. Becoming A Bridge Builder
 - g. Walking Through The Fire
 - h. Filing Spiritual Bankruptcy

DISCUSS Kingdom Priorities

Given the truths that Jesus presented here, one must ask: "*How blessed am I?*" Jesus is presenting objective facts, not subjective feelings. He is describing those who meet God's approval. Those on whom God smiles.

5. Which of the Beatitudes, Attitudes, and Actions gives you the most satisfaction, and why? Which one do you struggle with most, and why?

- Read Matthew 5:13
6. How do we make sense out of this, in light of the Beatitudes?
- Read Matthew 5:14
7. How do we understand our identity, stated here, in the context of the Beatitudes?

DO Kingdom Practices

8. What might Jesus be calling you to DO, this week, as a result of all this?

For NEXT TIME:

- Read or Listen to Matthew 5:17-48
- Attend our Sunday Gathering or it Watch online
- Pray/Consider how Jesus might be speaking to you.
- YouVersion "*Upside-Down Kingdom*" [click here](#)