



# CONVERSATIONS

session page

## Who Gets Blessed?

**Matthew 5:1-12 | Session 18.5**

### Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).

### Context

Remind the group of what Daniel Glaze said early in the podcast about the word "blessing":

"Well, I'll admit, I've gotten mixed feelings because, you know, I mean, we're blessed in blessings. I mean, it's a biblical word, but we've misused it. It's been co-opted by, you know, prosperity Gospel and others to indicate, you know, some sort of like special favor that we have. And certainly like we often think of material blessings or nation's blessings. So yeah, and if I'm blessed with material blessings and then someone. Doesn't have as much as I do. Does that mean God doesn't love that person as much? It's just there's a lot of problematic things there that, that goes along with this word. So we're gonna have to contend with that today."

Then ask:

- What do you think of when you hear the word "blessed"?
- How is the word blessed used in today's world?
- How do you define "blessed"?

## Content

Read together Matthew 5:1-12, then watch the Bible Background Video and ask:

- What is different about the blessings in this passage from what we typically think of as blessings?
- What do you think is the blessing in these unusual blessings?
- If the poor, the meek, the mournful are called blessed, what does that make those of us who don't fit those descriptions?
- What is different about the rules of God and the rules of humans when it comes to blessings?
- What do those who are oppressed know that we who are more privileged do not know about God?
- How might those who are oppressed understand what it means to be blessed?
- How does this discussion of blessings to the oppressed turn the definition of blessing on its head for what people typically understand as being blessed?

## Closure

Watch Nadia Bolz-Weber give her version of the Beatitudes. Then ask:

- What do you notice about this version of the Beatitudes?
- How is this the same as the Beatitudes in Matthew?
- How does this give us a way to understand what Jesus was talking about?

Close with a prayer.

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