



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

Watch this [skit on the many meanings of the phrase "Bless your heart"](#) then ask the following questions:

- While this video is a bit facetious, the term "blessing" is commonly used in today's society. What does the term "bless" or "blessing" mean to you? How many different meanings can you come up with?
- Why do you think there are so many different popular meanings for the term?
- When you think of a person who is "blessed", what kind of person do you picture?
- Can a blessing be something difficult or painful? Why or why not?
- How does our culture and upbringing shape what we consider a blessing?

Content

Read together [Matthew 5:1-12](#), then watch the Bible Background Video and ask:

- What do you imagine people were thinking as they heard Jesus' words?
- How might this speech have been surprising, frustrating, or hopeful?
- What does it mean to be blessed? How does this passage describe blessings?
- In what ways does this passage shake up the idea of who is blessed? Were you expecting the poor, grieving, meek, and hungry to be named as those who are blessed?
- How do you think this passage might be relevant today?

Closure

Watch this story of [Bacillio's immigration from Guatemala](#), then ask the following questions:

- What stands out to you about Bacillio's story? What themes did he express through his writing?
- Why did Bacillio and his family make the decision to immigrate? How might this decision have been a difficult one?
- What was the immigration process like for Bacillio and his family? What challenges have they faced?
- Where might Bacillio's story of struggle possibly fit into the passage in Matthew? How does this passage reshape our views of people who are poor, grieving, meek, hungry, etc.?
- How can we help care for people in our communities who have faced similar struggles with hardship like Bacillio?

Close with a prayer.

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