



MIND
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).
- In advance, choose at least one different translation or interpretation of today's passage. Here are some suggestions:
 - o [The Message Bible](#)
 - o [The New Living Translation](#)
 - o [Nadia Bolz-Weber's modern reimagining](#)
 - o [Clarence Jordan's retelling in the Cotton Patch Gospel](#)

Context

Begin the conversation with prompts like these:

- What do you think of when you hear the word, “blessed?” What are some different ways it is used in our culture?
- For those who are not a part of the Christian faith, how might they define this word differently? How might they hear it differently when Christians use it?
- Today’s scripture reading comes from the Sermon on the Mount. You’ve likely heard this many times before; do you see this passage differently than you used to? Explain.
- Which one of these blessings speaks most to you today? Which one might have had special significance for you in the past?

Content

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

- How are these categories of people different from what we’d usually consider as “blessed?”
- Why do you think Jesus decided to turn conventional wisdom on its head? What is particularly effective about the way Jesus chooses to express these truths?
- Take a moment to reflect on Jesus’ original audience. What were their lives like, as subjects of the Roman Empire? How does Jesus’ message speak directly into their experiences?
- How might those original hearers have received this message?
- While we’d certainly never ask to find ourselves poor, hungry or persecuted, what blessings can be found when we are in those positions? How do these situations remind us of our dependence upon God?

Closure

Take a moment to read aloud one or more of the different versions of the beatitudes. What surprised you or made you think differently about these blessings? Then ask:

- How might you rewrite these beatitudes for today's society?
- When you read this passage, do you try to find yourself in one of the "blessed" categories? How might this invite us to look beyond ourselves? What could it look like to seek out the ones Jesus says are truly blessed?

Close with a prayer.

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