



## 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 (from the Media session page)

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 (from the Mind session page)**

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 (from the Conversations session page)**

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.