



BLESSED ARE _____

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHEN YOU HAVE NOTHING LEFT

SPEAKER: Russel Joyce

DATE: February 15, 2026

TEXT(S): Matt. 5:1–3 (chs. 4-7); with Ex. 19:3, 7-8, & 10-12; Deut. 34:10-12; Heb. 3:5-6; and Phil. 2:6-11

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: *This resource is designed to help you, or your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. Our goal is to help you better understand and apply B4's teaching.*

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Drawing from Matthew 5:1–3, this message explores the shocking opening of the Sermon on the Mount: “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” Jesus ascends a mountain like Moses, but far surpasses him. Christ doesn’t merely deliver God’s word, but He embodies it. Unlike Sinai, the unclean are welcomed into God’s presence, helping us see that the Beatitudes are not instructions for earning blessing but announcements about who is blessed. Namely, those who know they have nothing left. In a world fueled by pride and self-sufficiency, Jesus declares that the kingdom belongs to the spiritually bereft. Salvation is not found in the teaching, but in the Teacher.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5 minutes.*

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word “blessed”?
2. Do you naturally identify more with strength or weakness? Why?
3. Where do you see striving most clearly in your daily life?
4. Have you ever realized you couldn’t fix something on your own?
5. Describe a time when you have felt completely “at the end of your rope.”

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) above. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Discuss the significance of Jesus going up the mountain in Matthew 5.
2. How does the scene in Exodus 19 contrast with Jesus’ invitation in Matthew 5?
3. In Hebrews 3:5–6, how is Jesus portrayed as greater than Moses, and why is that important?
4. In Philippians 2:6–11, what does Christ’s self-emptying reveal about God’s character?
5. What does “poor in spirit” mean in its biblical context? Think about it spiritually rather than emotionally.

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. How does our/your culture define “the good life”? How does that compare to Jesus’ definition?
2. Where do you see pride disguised as self-reliance or “good” ambition today?
3. Why is grace so offensive to achievement-oriented people?
4. How does social media reinforce being “rich in spirit” rather than poor in spirit?
5. What would it look like for a community to truly embody the Beatitudes?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Where in your life are you still striving to prove yourself worthy?
2. What would it mean for you to admit spiritual poverty in that area?
3. Do you believe salvation is found only in Jesus, or does it still feel like you must always be trying harder?
4. How might pride be subtly shaping your relationship with God?
5. What would it look like this week for you to stop climbing and start receiving?

LIVE IT OUT: *These practical action steps help you apply this message to day-to-day life. Choose one prompt and talk it over for 5 minutes:*

1. A Daily Poverty Prayer: Begin each morning with a simple confession, “*Lord, I have nothing apart from You. I receive Your grace today.*” Resist the urge throughout each day to leverage your apparent strengths. Instead, sit confidently with your neediness, offering it to Jesus.
2. Practice Surrendering to Jesus: Identify one situation, one area of your life, where you’ve been striving for control (a relationship, work stress, habits, etc.), and consciously release the outcome to Jesus in prayer throughout the day, replacing self-reliance with trust in His sufficiency. Practice this prayer as an ongoing conversation throughout the day, rather than a one-and-done.

You can find B4’s [Series Resources here](#).

