

As a brief review, read **Matthew 5:1-4** and discuss the following.

How are the first two beatitudes connected?

What does it mean to be “*blessed*”?

Now read **Matthew 5:5-10** and discuss the following.

What do each of these beatitudes or blessings (*the “blessed are” statements*) have in common? Explain.

What does it mean to be “*meek*”? List some common misconceptions of what it means. How did Jesus exemplify meekness?

For what do you most passionately hunger and thirst? What do you most desire to see in this world? What might longing for righteousness tangibly look like?

To be “*pure in heart*” means one is single-minded, both inwardly and outwardly united. It’s the opposite of being hypocritical and double-hearted. Why is this kind of sincere faithfulness so difficult to achieve?

What does it mean to be a peacemaker? What does it *not* mean?

How are these traits counter to so much of what is commonly celebrated today?

Read **Matthew 5:11-12**.

How do these verses expand upon **v.10**? Also, how does **v.11** begin differently than **v.3-10**? What do you think is the purpose of this shift?

Why are Christ’s disciples told to “*rejoice and be glad*”? What reason does Jesus give?

Consider the first part of each beatitude and the character traits Jesus calls people to, then examine your own heart and life. Where do you sense the most conviction and desire for growth? Explain.

Now consider the second part of each beatitude—all the accompanying promises. How do these offer hope and encouragement to you in this particular season of life? Explain.