



RESOURCES FOR GROUPS

TITLE: The Kingdom is Yours

TEXT: Matthew 5:1-11

DATE: January 10, 2021

SPEAKER: Pastor Dave Bondeson

COMMUNITY BUILDING:

- What is something you like to do outside in the winter? What is an inside activity that you only do in the winter?
- Share about a time when you especially felt God's presence with you recently.

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

Green star indicates zoom friendly OR to be used with spiritual growth partners. *Italicized green text is the leader guide.*

- ★ 1. When you think of "blessed," what do you usually think? What do non-Christians think when they hear Christians talking about being "blessed?" How does this compare or contrast to how Pastor Dave defined "blessed" (favored by God)?
It makes sense that the church is made up of individual people who are "blessed" (spending time in God's presence) with these same characteristics.
Questions 4-6 build a conversation. Consider using them together.
2. List the attributes of the "blessed" from Matthew 5:2-11. What do they mean? How does Jesus say God will be present with those listed in the passage?
According to the ESV Gospel Transformation Bible,
"Poor in spirit" = those who know they don't have the spiritual resources to carry out God's demands
"Those who mourn" = those who have experienced tragedy and/or are broken by the world
"Hunger and thirst for righteousness" = see that God's way is good and desires to live that way
"Meek" = those who have a humility that treats others with kindness
"Merciful" = those who understand their own need for God's mercy
These are normative postures for all Christians all the time.
3. Reread Ephesians 4:1-6 from last week's sermon on the marks of a healthy church. Do these characteristics connect to the attitudes found in Matthew 5:2-11? Why is that?
Ephesians 4 talks about how the church should be marked by humility, gentleness, patience and a love that bears all things.
4. On a scale of 1 to 10, without sharing any details, how authentic do you think you act in front of other Christians?
This question is a great jumping off point into the questions that follow about creating a safe space within your group to be vulnerable with others. Listen well and take notes. Take time to pray for God's Spirit to help your group maintain this space as you desire it to be.
5. Why do you think you are afraid to be vulnerable with others? How can you take your own fear about being vulnerable and make sure others don't feel that way with you?
6. How would our group look or feel different if everyone dropped their "I have it all together" persona? How can you help this group build a community of vulnerability?
7. ★ Where have you been "pretending" or putting forth an image that is not the real you? What would it look like for you to walk with Jesus truly in this area this week?

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING:

- Use the other resources on the Joyful Journey resource page to choose an application that aligns with what you are learning about God and about yourself.

Have everyone in your group pull out their phones, download the Woodlands app and check out the "Joyful Journey" tab that will be updated weekly with exercises, questions and the week's memory verse. Find a way to take the Sunday sermon with you throughout the week.