

## BLESSINGS THAT LAST?

### **Starting point:**

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website, [www.vcfj.org](http://www.vcfj.org) and listen to it BEFORE YOU START this small group lesson. It will allow you take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on your journey to greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

### Overview

If you would have to explain in your own words what it means to be a follower of Jesus, what would be one of your major points?

Explain WHY

### **Read Matt 5:1-12 The Eight Beatitudes**

Is there an order in the way Jesus taught the Beatitudes?

Discuss the Root, Shoot and Fruit thought that Pastor talked about in his message.

The Beatitudes are best understood when we put them into four different categories.

What are the different categories?

What is the difference between the first seven and the last Beatitude?

**Read 2 Tim 3:12.** This scripture talks about the hidden truth that is found in the formation of the Beatitudes. Discuss that "Hidden Truth."

### **Read Matt 5:3-5**

What are the three needs and the blessings attached to them?

What does it mean to be poor in Spirit?

What does it mean to be mourning?

What does it mean to be meek?

### **What does it mean to be Poor in Spirit?**

Is Christianity a crutch for people who can't make it on their own?

Can we receive the Kingdom of heaven without the blessing of God?

**Read Psalm 51:17** and discuss what it means to you.

**What does it mean to be Mourning?**

**Read Luke 18:9-14** What is Spiritual poverty? Who in this scripture recognizes spiritual poverty? How does the person respond to his spiritual poverty?

The Blessings promised to those who are meek is the Comforter.  
Who is the Comforter and do we need the blessing from Him?

**What does it mean to be Meek?**

**Read Psalm 37:1-11**

What is Meekness? When you read Psalm 37, who will inherit the earth?

**Key Question—Why is it so important to admit our needs that are recorded in the first three Beatitudes?**

**Read Matt 5:6 and Matt 5:20-37**

What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness? We know what it feels like to be hungry or how it feels to be thirsty. But what about righteousness?

What does it look like? What are we pursuing?

Should we pursue the illustrations in **Matt 5:20-37**? Will they bring us blessings?

**Read Matt 5:7**

Christ is our example of being a vessel of Mercy. Have you received Mercy from Jesus?

Do you share that Mercy with others?

Talk about the blessings you have received from being Merciful?

**Read Matt 5:8**

What does it mean to have Peace of Heart? Read PS 24:3-4.

What does this tell you about the blessings being a Vessel with the Pure of Heart?

What does it mean to see God?

**Read Matt 5:9 and John 14:27**

Jesus gave us peace, what does that look like?

What does it mean to be a Peace Maker?

What is the promise blessing for the Peace Maker?

**Read Matt 5:10-12 and Luke 16:13-15**

We learn that the first seven Beatitudes reflect godly character that followers of Jesus are to actively pursue, while the last beatitude will pursue us.

In Luke, Jesus is attacking the Pharisees love of what?

Discuss this statement—The root of persecution is the love of something evil or untrue and the need to justify that love.

Do you have examples of this and if so what have you done or what should you do about this?