



[FOR the Kingdom]

Week One | Be Blessed | 08.27-28.2022

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

Message Recap: For thousands of years, there has been tension for every person following Jesus or thinking about taking that step. Jesus explained this tension as He described the Kingdom of Heaven. **What if the kind of kingdom we are made for looks as upside down as Jesus shared?** Let's discover how living for that kingdom can change how we live in this one.

» Opening

(3 minutes)

- Introductions - This is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members.
- Housekeeping - Clarify expectations:
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting.
 - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - Open your time together in prayer.

» Introduction

(12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What does it look like to be FOR the people around you?
- Digging Deeper: Describe a time when something difficult in your life ended up being a blessing.

» Observation | Read Matthew 5:1-12

(12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to this passage? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | The Blessed Life is the Best Life

(12 minutes)

- What is your definition of blessed? Do you think that is what God had in mind when He spoke creation into being?
- When we seek "better," how do we go about that?

» #Blessed | Read Luke 1:46-55, 12:15-22, 18:18-30

(12 minutes)

- How do these verses instruct us to store up treasure in heaven? What promise does Jesus give?
- What common thread do these verses share regarding earthly treasures?

» What a drag Blessed | Reread Matthew 5:1-11; Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

(12 minutes)

- How might Christians feel persecuted in our communities today? Can we equate that with blessing?
- Discuss what it means to be joyful, do good, and take pleasure in toil.

» Grace is the Blessing | Reread Matthew 5:12; Ezekiel 34:11-16

(12 minutes)

- Does Ezekiel give examples of God's blessings mentioned in Matthew 5? Why or why not?
- What are the connections you can make between grace and justice? How does that illustrate God's heart?

» Next Steps and Prayer |

(15 minutes)

- Which group of Blessed people do you most identify with? What does it look like to take the Beatitudes seriously and live them out?
- Close by praying for one another to examine the Beatitudes and to recognize the blessings in your life.