



# BLESSED BEATITUDES

*Exploring Jesus' Vision For The Blessed Life*



## SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

---

SARDINIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

## ***SESSION 2: Poor In Spirit***

### ***LEADER NOTES:***

- ***Consider opening and closing your session in prayer (including requests at some point). Also consider opening your session in ice breakers of some kind.***
- ***Main Idea:*** *You cannot experience the kingdom of God while pretending you don't need Him.*
- ***Key Truth:*** *Being poor in spirit means living in daily, honest dependence on God.*
- *The Greek word for "poor" is "ptochos" which means beggar or destitute. This means the word alludes to dependence on God for ones survival.*
- *First century listeners (in Jesus' crowd) might have included Pharisees (religious self-confidence), zealots (the politically aligned seeking to force influence through strength and often times through harmful means), roman-influenced elites (ones in positions of power that had been controlling this region for years), the everyday individual would have also been present (carrying feelings that they had little agency or may have often been overlooked)*
- *Being poor in spirit does not mean to have low self esteem, self contempt or a shame-based spirituality. This form of self-hatred has become a distorted view of false humility. Instead, being poor in spirit calls us to an awareness of our basic human needs for God.*



## **SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 5:1-12**

*1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them. He said: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*



## ***SESSION 2: Group Question Guide***

1. When you hear “poor in spirit”, what comes to mind?
2. Why do you think this beatitude comes first?
3. Does that phrase feel attractive or uncomfortable to you? Why or why not?
4. *Read Romans 3:10-23 and James 4:6.* How do these connect to being poor in Spirit?
5. What do most people seem to believe makes someone a “strong” or an “independent” person?
6. How might success in life quietly reduce our spiritual dependence on God?
7. How is humility different from low self esteem?
8. What would change in your life if you truly believed you needed God daily?

