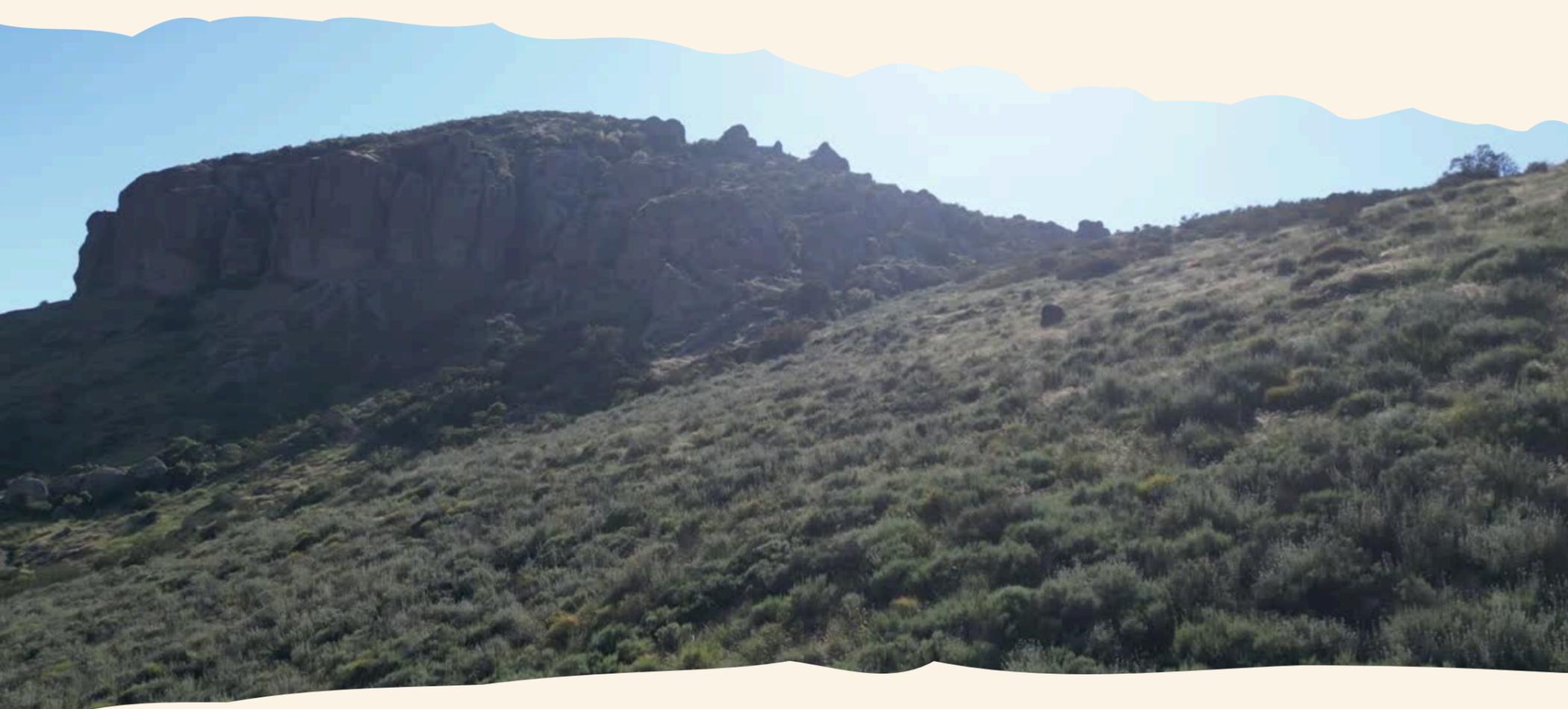




# BLESSED BEATITUDES

*Exploring Jesus' Vision For The Blessed Life*



## SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

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SARDINIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

## ***SESSION 1: An Upside Down Vision For The Blessed Life***

### ***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:*** *When Jesus says “Blessed,” He is not describing emotional happiness or favorable circumstances as we might assume. He is declaring who is living under God’s favor and participating in His kingdom, even when their circumstances seem difficult.*
- ***Key Truth:*** *Blessed is not a feeling but a state of favor from God over a life aligned with His Kingdom despite current circumstance.*
- *The Greek word “makarios” describes someone living under God’s favor, approval and acceptance. It is not based on feeling or circumstance but on their relationship with God (Psalm 1:1-2).*
- *The world defines blessing through strength, comfort and success. Jesus defines blessing here through humility, dependence, righteousness, faithfulness and a relationship with God (James 2:5, 1 Samuel 16:7).*
- *The Beatitudes are not only about future promises, they are describing present identity for those who belong to God’s kingdom (Matt. 5:3,10; Eph 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:17-18).*



## **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 1: Group Question Guide***

1. Describe a moment in life you felt “blessed”.
2. How would you typically define a blessing?
3. How do most people feel or think about God (or even think about themselves) when they don’t experience their expectation of blessings overflowing 24/7?
4. How is Jesus’ definition of blessing different from our cultural definition of blessing?
5. How do you think this message was received in the 1<sup>st</sup> century and how do you think this message is received today?
6. Which of these topics in the Beatitudes surprises you the most and why?
7. How can someone be blessed even if going through something difficult?
8. Do you believe Jesus would call you blessed right now? Why or why not?

