



# The Beatitudes

## Discussion Guide – Blessed are The Persecuted

### Main Idea

This week, Pastor Matt taught on the final of the eight Beatitudes: “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me” (Matthew 5:11 NIV). We are actually promised that there will be times when people will insult or offend us, but we are responsible for our response. Jesus tells us to “rejoice” when this happens, because the same happened to Him. There are some practical things to remember, when offense comes our way:

### Make It Practical

- Choose to overlook the offense
- Keep my heart free from unforgiveness
- Pray, bless, and do good to them
- Remember the eternal reward

**“Love looks past the behavior and imagines the pain in their life”**

### Talk About It

1. What do you usually do when someone offends you? Do you tend to be reactive, or do you take time to think and pray before you respond?
2. Is unforgiveness holding you back from experiencing true joy in your life? If so, why are you struggling to forgive that offense?
3. What are some practical ways you can “do good” to someone who offends you? What might keep you from taking that step in response to offense?

**“And forgive our sins—  
for we have forgiven those who sinned against us.”  
Luke 11:4 (TLB)**

## **Prayer**

Jesus, we know that offense will come our way, so we forgive those that will offend us one day. We pray, that if You find any unforgiveness in our hearts, that You would bring it to our attention allowing us to forgive. May we find joy when others bring insults our way, knowing that we are following You!. In Your name, Amen.

## **Leader Tips**

Share a moment where you took offense to something someone did or said. Sharing your vulnerability will help others open their eyes to times they needed peace in their past too.

## **Scriptures Used**

Matthew 5:11-12, 2 Corinthians 12:10, Matthew 5:13-16, Matthew 24:10, Luke 17:1, Proverbs 18:19, Proverbs 10:12, Proverbs 12:16, Proverbs 19:11, Luke 11:4, Colossians 3:13, Matthew 5:38-44, Luke 6:27-28, 1 Peter 3:9, Romans 12:17-21, 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18,