



MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

June 6, 2026 | Blessed: Summer in the Beatitudes pt.2 - "Blessed Are the Poor In Spirit"

CHOOSE AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION: If you could hire someone to help you with one thing in your life right now, what would it be? // If your life was a video game, what skill would need the biggest upgrade right now?

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with a statement that completely challenges the way most people think about success, happiness, and fulfillment. While the world tells us to be strong, independent, self-sufficient, and confident in ourselves, Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). At first glance, it sounds backwards. Why would spiritual poverty be considered a blessing? Jesus is teaching that the blessed life begins when we recognize how much we need God. Being poor in spirit is not having low self-esteem or thinking less of yourself. It is understanding that apart from God, we are spiritually empty and completely dependent on His grace. (Matthew 5:3, James 4:6)

Jesus points us toward a different kind of fulfillment than the world offers. Many people spend their lives trying to prove themselves, control everything, or appear like they have it all together. Yet underneath the surface, many are exhausted, anxious, overwhelmed, or carrying burdens alone. The kingdom of God belongs to people who are willing to come with open hands and honest hearts. Just as a drowning person must stop fighting and trust the rescuer, we experience God's grace when we stop pretending we can save ourselves and surrender to Him. God's strength often becomes most visible in our weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9, John 15:5)

Being poor in spirit is not a one-time decision. It becomes a daily way of living. Every day we choose whether we will rely on our own strength or God's Spirit. Following Jesus is not about trying harder or performing better. It is about depending more deeply on Him. Prayer before panic. Worship before worry. Surrender before striving. Trust before control. Jesus Himself modeled this kind of humility by laying down His rights and becoming a servant so that we could experience grace, forgiveness, salvation, and relationship with God. The blessed life begins when we honestly say, "God, I need You." (Galatians 5:16, Philippians 2:5-8, 2 Corinthians 8:9)

GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from the message or the summary?
2. Why do you think our culture places so much value on being independent and having everything together?
3. What does being "poor in spirit" mean to you personally, and why do you think Jesus begins the Beatitudes here?
4. In what area of your life are you most tempted to rely on your own strength instead of God's help? What is one area of your life where you need to stop striving and start depending on God this week? What is one practical step you can take to surrender that area to Him?

PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):

Father, thank You for reminding us that true fulfillment is found not in our strength, but in our dependence on You. Help us to come before You with humble hearts that trust Your grace and guidance every day. Teach us to extend the same grace and compassion to others that You have shown to us, and help us create safe places where people can be honest about their struggles and needs. Use our lives to point people toward the hope, peace, and fulfillment that can only be found in Jesus, and help us reflect Your love wherever You have placed us.

Summer Challenge: Don't do this summer alone. Join a small group and build relationships.

Let's grow deeper in our relationship with God and others this summer as we study The Beatitudes together.



MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

June 6, 2026 | Blessed: Summer in the Beatitudes pt.2 - "Blessed Are the Poor In Spirit"

MANNA YOUTH DISCUSSION GUIDE

CHOOSE AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION: If you could hire someone to help you with one thing in your life right now, what would it be? // If your life was a video game, what skill would need the biggest upgrade right now?

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

Jesus starts the Sermon on the Mount with a statement that seems completely opposite of what most people expect: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). Today, we're often told to be independent, confident, and self-sufficient. We hear messages like, "You don't need anyone" or "Figure it out yourself." But Jesus teaches something different. Being "poor in spirit" means recognizing that we need God. It doesn't mean thinking less of yourself or having low confidence. It means understanding that no matter how talented, successful, athletic, smart, or popular we are, we can't do life without God. Real strength begins when we admit we need His help. (Matthew 5:3, James 4:6)

Many students carry a lot of pressure every day. There are grades to maintain, homework to finish, sports practices to attend, family expectations to meet, friendships to navigate, and decisions about the future. It can feel like you always have to have everything together. But God never asked us to carry life on our own. Jesus invites us to come to Him honestly, with our struggles, fears, questions, and weaknesses. Just like someone who is drowning has to stop fighting and trust the lifeguard, we experience God's grace when we stop trying to control everything and start trusting Him. God's power often shows up most clearly when we realize we can't do it all ourselves. (2 Corinthians 12:9, John 15:5)

Being poor in spirit isn't something we do once and move on from. It's a daily choice to depend on God. Every day we decide whether we're going to trust our own strength or God's. Following Jesus is not about trying harder to be perfect. It's about staying connected to Him and allowing Him to lead us. When school gets stressful, we pray before we panic. When life feels uncertain, we worship instead of worry. When we're tempted to control everything, we choose surrender and trust. Jesus modeled this kind of humility perfectly when He gave up His rights and served others so we could experience forgiveness, freedom, and a relationship with God. The blessed life begins when we simply say, "God, I need You." (Galatians 5:16, Philippians 2:5-8, 2 Corinthians 8:9)

GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)

1. Share something that stood out to you from the message or summary?
2. Where do you feel the most pressure to have everything together right now: school, sports, friendships, family, social media, or something else? Why?
3. Jesus says the blessed life starts with depending on God. What do you think that looks like in everyday life for a student?
4. What is one area of your life where you've been trying to handle everything on your own? This week, choose one practical way to trust God with it. Maybe it's praying before a test, asking for help with a struggle, talking to a parent or leader, spending time with God before checking social media, or praying for a friend who needs encouragement.

PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):

Father, thank You for loving us and reminding us that we don't have to do life on our own. Help us trust You with our school, friendships, family, sports, and future. Teach us to rely on Your strength when life feels overwhelming and help us encourage others with the same love and compassion You show us. Use our lives to point people to the hope and peace found in Jesus. Amen.

Summer Challenge: Don't do this summer alone. Join a small group and build relationships.

Let's grow deeper in our relationship with God and others this summer as we study The Beatitudes together.

Referenced Scripture: Matthew 5:1-10 NIV

“Blessed is a deep sense of well-being, satisfaction, and contentment that comes from having a thriving relationship with Christ and cultivating healthy relationships with other people.”

Matthew 5:3 *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

The Blessed Life begins with spiritual _____.

James 4:6 *“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”*

Being poor in the spirit positions us to receive _____.

2 Corinthians 12:9 *“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.”*

John 15:5 *“Apart from Me you can do nothing.”*

Galatians 5:16 *“Walk by the Spirit...”*

Application Questions

What area of my life am I trying to control?

Where have I stopped depending on God?

Am I relying more on my abilities or God’s Spirit?

2 Corinthians 8:9: *“Though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”*

Discussion Guide/Going Deeper



Growth Track



Join a Small Group!

