



MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Aug 2, 2026 | Blessed: Summer in the Beatitudes - "Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted"

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: If someone made a movie about your life, what genre would it be right now: comedy, adventure, drama, mystery, or action? Why?

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

Throughout the Beatitudes, Jesus has been teaching us that life in His Kingdom looks very different from the way the world lives. The world tells us that blessing comes through comfort, success, power, and avoiding hardship. Jesus teaches that true blessing is found in humility, dependence on God, mercy, purity, peacemaking, and faithfully following Him, even when it leads to difficulty. He closes this section by saying, **"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"** (Matthew 5:10-12). Jesus reminds us that following Him does not guarantee an easy life, but it does guarantee His presence and His eternal promises.

Joseph's life is a powerful example of this truth (Matthew 1:18-25; Matthew 2:13-23; Luke 2:41-51). Scripture describes him as a righteous man, yet his life was filled with unexpected hardships, disappointments, uncertainty, and sacrifice. From Mary's miraculous pregnancy, to fleeing to Egypt, living as a refugee, searching for Jesus when He was twelve, and faithfully obeying God through every challenge, Joseph reminds us that being faithful does not exempt us from suffering. Sometimes we assume that if we're following God, life should become easier. Instead, Joseph shows us that obedience often requires trusting God even when we don't understand what He's doing.

The good news is that God never wastes our pain. Jesus tells us that the Father prunes His children so they will bear even more fruit (John 15:1-2). The Apostle Paul reminds us that God's grace is sufficient and His power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). Our difficult seasons can deepen our relationship with God, develop Christlike character, and become opportunities to encourage others walking through similar struggles. Every person has a story. While none of us get the story we would have chosen, God is able to redeem our pain for His glory and use it to point people to the hope found in Jesus.

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 the summary?
2. Can you think of a difficult season that unexpectedly taught you something valuable or changed your perspective?
3. Joseph continued trusting and obeying God even when life didn't make sense. What helps you continue trusting God when His plans are different from yours?
4. Jesus promises His presence in our suffering, not the absence of suffering (Matthew 5:10-12; John 15:1-2). How have you experienced God's faithfulness during a difficult season, and who is one person you can intentionally encourage this week through a prayer, conversation, meal, note, or act of kindness?

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

Father, thank You for walking with us through every season of life. Help us trust You, even when we don't understand our circumstances, knowing that Your grace is always enough. Draw us closer to You and strengthen our faith through every trial. Let our lives encourage and bring hope to those who are hurting. Let our hope and perseverance point others to the peace and salvation found only in Jesus. Amen. **Summer Challenge:**

Don't do summer alone, join a small group. 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

Aug 2, 2026 | Blessed: Summer in the Beatitudes - "Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted"

MANNAYOUTH DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: If your life was a movie right now, what genre would it be: comedy, adventure, drama, mystery, or action? Why?

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

Jesus finishes the Beatitudes by saying, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:10-12). Throughout this series, Jesus has shown us that living for Him looks different from the way the world lives. The world says happiness comes from popularity, success, comfort, or getting what you want. Jesus says real blessing comes from trusting God, showing mercy, making peace, and staying faithful to Him even when it's hard. Following Jesus doesn't mean life will always be easy. You may be left out, misunderstood, made fun of, or treated differently because of your faith. But Jesus promises that He will always be with us and that following Him is always worth it. (Matthew 5:10-12)

Joseph's life is a great example of this kind of faith (Matthew 1:18-25; Matthew 2:13-23; Luke 2:41-51). Even though he loved God and obeyed Him, life wasn't easy. Joseph faced unexpected challenges, had to leave his home, protect his family, and trust God when he didn't have all the answers. He reminds us that obeying God doesn't always make life easier, but it does mean we're never walking alone. Whether you're dealing with problems at home, pressure at school, drama with friends, injuries in sports, or uncertainty about your future, God is faithful through every season.

The good news is that God never wastes our struggles. Jesus says that just like a gardener prunes a plant so it can grow stronger, God uses difficult seasons to help us grow in our faith (John 15:1-2). Sometimes the hardest moments teach us to trust God more, build our character, and prepare us to encourage someone else who is going through something similar. Every person has a story, and God can use every part of yours to bring hope to others. Even when life doesn't go the way you planned, God is still working and can use your life to point people to Jesus. (John 15:1-2; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

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 the summary?
2. Have you ever gone through something difficult at school, on a sports team, at home, or with friends that ended up helping you grow? What happened?
3. Joseph kept trusting God even when life didn't make sense. What helps you keep trusting God when things don't go the way you hoped or expected?
4. Jesus promises to be with us through hard times. What is one challenge you're facing right now where you need to trust Him more? What is one practical step you can take this week, and who is someone you can encourage who may be going through something similar?

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

Father, thank You for always being with us, even when life is hard. Help us trust You at school, at home, with our friends, teammates, and family, even when we don't understand what's happening. Use our lives to encourage others and help them experience the hope, peace, and love that can only be found in Jesus. Amen.

Summer Challenge: Don't do summer alone, join a small group. Let's grow deeper in our relationship with God and others this summer as we study The Beatitudes together.

Referenced Scripture: Matthew 1-2, Luke 2:41-50, 2 Corinthians 12: 5-10

John 15:1 (NLT) *"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and He prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more."*

People might appreciate your talents but they will _____ with your brokenness.

People will always admire your achievements but they will _____ with your suffering.

Suffering doesn't build your character....it _____ your character.

Romans 7:18 (NLT) *And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. ¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.*

Romans 7:15 (ESV) *For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want but I do the very thing I hate.*

_____ has a _____.

Everybody's story _____.

_____ gets the story they _____.

Notes

Discussion Guide/Going Deeper



Growth Track



Join a Serve Team!

