



Message Devotional & Discussion Questions

7/7/2024

MESSAGE: Blessed in Mourning?

WEEK#2

SERIES: Jesus Story: The Beatitudes

COMMUNICATOR: Pastor Nate Hartman

CHECKIN' IN: How is your week? What was one of the highlights? Share wins (things God did that moved his mission forward and you closer to Jesus). **Did you wrestle with what it means to be "poor in spirit" and what were some of your conclusions?** What did you put into practice from last week's Devotional & Discussion?

THINK, DISCUSS, LIVE: These questions work well individually or in a group setting to encourage spiritual growth, engage in biblical community and live it in the world around you.

1. What comes to mind when you think of "blessing"? All green lights? A job promotion? Everything is perfect? A new...? Something else?
2. Read Matthew 5:4. Why do you think Jesus says that those who mourn are blessed and will be comforted? How is Jesus using the word mourn? How would you define it?
3. Our sin has a wake to it. It hurts God, us and others. What are your thoughts or feelings when you think about the results of your sin?
4. How do you usually respond when you sin? Are you greatly grieved, you are a casual confessor, a ready repentor, or do you think, "Sin?" "What sin?". Please explain your answer.
5. Discuss a time when you were comforted from a very difficult time? How did God comfort you? Did he comfort you through another Jesus follower? Who do you know needs comforted, needs to be rescued from their sorrow?
6. Read and discuss Psalm 51:1-12. How did the author, (King David) feel when he was immersed in his sin against God? What indicates that he trusted in God? What does King David request from God? How do you think God responded to King David's prayer of contrition?
7. Look again at verse 12. Is there an area in your life where you need to have your joy restored again? Is there an area in your life where you need to obey the Lord? Take time to pray, asking God to restore your joy or for a willingness to obey him.
8. 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. What is Paul saying regarding God when it comes to life's difficulties and troubles? What is Paul saying regarding our response and reasons for God's comfort for us? Who do you know could use some extra comfort this week? Go do that!
9. Look at Matthew 18:21-22. Asking for or offering forgiveness is one of the hardest things for people to do in life. Give an example of either asking for or offering forgiveness. How did the actual experience go? What was done? How did you feel after the experience?



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10. **TRUTH DEMANDS A RESPONSE!** What is one action step you will take this week in response to our discussion or nudge from the Holy Spirit? Be specific.

2024 TRANSFORMATION CHALLENGE: We have created some resources to help you grow. Check out the *Experience God* page. Go to canvas.church/experience-god or *Experience God* on the Canvas App., read the "Make Me Better" section, start a new discipline, try a new Bible engagement tool, or help someone go further on their faith journey. Let us know how it's going.

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP PRAYER OPTIONS:

Challenge yourself and or your group to pray out loud. It may just be a sentence or two of something you thank God for, or ask God to bless and answer someone's prayer request.

1. We pray because we believe God can and will answer our prayers.
 2. We pray for each other out of obedience to God and out of love for each other.
 3. We pray out loud for each other so everyone will be blessed and encouraged.
- **Prayer Question:** "What's going on in our lives that we can involve Jesus?"
 - **Ask:** What was one praise and one challenge you experienced this week? Celebrate the praises and pray for the challenges.
 - **Ask** if anyone has a need or knows of a need, you can also offer "unspoken" prayer requests.
 - **Pray for the person on your right**, *it can be out loud or in silence*, if in silence nudge the person next to you letting them know you are done.
 - **Prayer Clusters:** Groups of two or three (by gender) and share your week together. Pray together and for each other. Send them a text, or leave a message letting them know you have prayed for them this week.
 - **Have someone in your group keep an active list of the requests and the answers for both the updates and to celebrate the answers.**

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping Life Groups benefit from the weekend message? We have a team for you! Canvas members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email rickz@canvas.church