



JESUS AND THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Small Group Guide: **Matthew 5:3-4**

Key Takeaways:

1. The Beatitudes are Christ's portrait of a disciple, not just a list of rules.
2. Being "poor in spirit" means recognizing our need for God and humbling ourselves before Him.
3. Those who mourn over their sin will be comforted by God.
4. Christians have hope in the face of death because we know the end of the story.
5. Our comfort from God enables us to comfort others.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"? How can we cultivate this attitude in our daily lives?
2. Pastor Josh mentions that "grace begins where self-sufficiency ends." Can you share an experience where you had to let go of self-reliance and depend on God's grace?

3. How does mourning over our sin differ from wallowing in guilt? What's the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow?
4. Pastor Josh mentioned that Christians mourn differently than non-believers when facing loss. How has your faith impacted the way you process grief or loss?
5. The sermon emphasized that our hope is "unshaken" because it's built on Christ. In what areas of your life do you need to build a firmer foundation on Jesus?
6. How can we practically comfort others with the comfort we've received from God? Share examples if possible.

Practical Application:

1. This week, start each day by telling God "I need you" in your prayers. Reflect on how this impacts your daily perspective.
2. Identify an area of sin or struggle in your life. Spend time in prayer, mourning over this sin and seeking God's comfort and strength to overcome it.
3. Reach out to someone who is grieving or going through a difficult time. How can you share the hope and comfort of Christ with them?
4. Reflect on areas where you might be relying on your own strength rather than God's. Make a plan to surrender these areas to God.
5. Memorize 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 as a reminder of God's comfort and our calling to comfort others.

Closing Prayer:

Encourage group members to continue reflecting on the Beatitudes and how they can embody these characteristics

of Christ's disciples in their daily lives.

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

Reading: Matthew 5:1-3, Psalm 51:1-17

Devotional: Jesus begins the Beatitudes by blessing those who are "poor in spirit." This isn't about material poverty, but a spiritual humility - recognizing our utter dependence on God. When we come before God with empty hands and open hearts, we create space for His kingdom to enter. Today, reflect on areas where you may be relying on your own strength rather than God's. How can you cultivate a spirit of humility? Remember, it's not about feeling worthless, but about recognizing your worth comes from God alone. Pray for God to reveal any pride in your heart and ask Him to fill you with His grace.

Day 2: The Comfort of Mourning

Reading: Matthew 5:4, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Devotional: It may seem paradoxical that Jesus blesses those who mourn, but there's profound truth here. When we truly grasp the weight of our sin and the brokenness of our world, it leads us to godly sorrow. This mourning opens our hearts to receive God's comfort. Moreover, as we experience God's comfort, we're equipped to comfort others. Today, allow yourself to feel the pain of sin and injustice around you. Bring that sorrow to God and experience His comfort. Then consider: How can you extend that comfort to someone else who's hurting? Remember, our hope in Christ allows us to mourn differently than the world - with the assurance of ultimate redemption.

Day 3: Building on the Rock

Reading: Matthew 7:24-27, Psalm 18:1-3

Devotional: Jesus concludes His sermon by emphasizing the importance of building our lives on His teachings - the solid rock. In a world of shifting sands, Christ offers an unshakeable foundation. This doesn't mean life will be storm-free, but that we can withstand the storms when they come. Reflect on the foundation of your life. What do you rely on when challenges arise? Are there areas where you've built on less stable ground? Take time to recommit to making Christ your cornerstone, allowing His words to shape your thoughts, decisions, and actions. Remember, a life built on Christ can weather any storm.

Day 4: The Now and Not Yet Kingdom

Reading: Matthew 6:9-13, Revelation 21:1-5

Devotional: The concept of "now but not yet" permeates Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God. We experience glimpses of God's reign now, but await its full realization. This tension shapes our Christian walk - we live with present joy and future hope. How does this perspective change how you view your current circumstances? In what ways do you see God's Kingdom breaking through in your life and community? Pray the Lord's Prayer thoughtfully, asking God to make His Kingdom more visible in and through you today. Let this "now and not yet" reality fuel your perseverance and hope.

Day 5: Comfort in Suffering

Reading: Romans 8:18-39, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Devotional: As followers of Christ, we're not promised a life free from suffering. However, we are promised God's presence and comfort in our pain. Paul reminds us that our present sufferings pale in comparison to the glory that awaits us. This doesn't trivialize our pain, but puts it in eternal perspective. Reflect on a difficult situation you're facing. How might viewing it through the lens of eternity change your approach? Remember that nothing can separate you from God's love. In your suffering, lean into His presence, allowing His comfort to sustain you. Consider how your experience of God's comfort in trials might equip you to minister to others who are hurting.