

# Koinonia Gathering Notes & 5-Day Devotional

**Theme:** From Desperation to Devotion: Journey of the Blessed

**Text:** Matthew 5:1–12

**Exegesis:** The Beatitudes reveal our need for God, that we can only truly be filled by God, and they direct us to live our lives for God—even if it costs us everything.

## Group Summary (Deeper Overview):

The Sermon on the Mount begins not with commands, but with blessings. Jesus redefines what it means to live a “blessed life.” In contrast to the world’s view—where blessing is tied to wealth, power, and comfort—Jesus shows that blessing flows from dependence on God, inward transformation, and living out the character of the kingdom.

The Beatitudes trace a spiritual journey:

1. From Desperation (vv. 3–6): Recognizing our spiritual poverty, mourning over sin, walking in meekness, and hungering for righteousness.
2. To Being Filled (vv. 7–9): God meets us with mercy, purity, and peace, filling what we lack with His Spirit.
3. To Devotion (vv. 10–12): The journey culminates in wholehearted devotion, even in the face of persecution.

The Beatitudes are not abstract virtues but a portrait of Jesus Himself. They show us what kingdom life looks like, and through Christ’s Spirit, they become reality in us.

## Point 1: Desperation – Our Need for God (vv. 3–6)

**Discussion Notes:** Poor in spirit means spiritual bankruptcy; mourning is grief over sin; meekness is strength under control; hungering for righteousness means longing for God’s will above all else.

**Questions:** Which of these four do you most identify with in this season? Why is it hard to admit weakness before God? What happens when we try to fill our emptiness elsewhere?

**Leave Room for the Spirit:** Encourage silence and listening prayer. Ask: ‘Holy Spirit, show us where we are poor, mourning, or hungry for You.’

**Leader Tip:** Normalize vulnerability. Desperation is the doorway to blessing, not a mark of failure.

## Point 2: Being Filled – Only by God (vv. 7–9)

**Discussion Notes:** God fills us with mercy, purity, and peace. Mercy is forgiveness lived toward others; purity of heart is undivided loyalty to God; peacemakers reconcile and bring

God's wholeness.

**Questions:** Where have you experienced God's mercy? What makes it difficult to live with a pure heart today? Who in your life needs you to be a peacemaker?

**Leave Room for the Spirit:** Invite members to ask: 'Lord, is there someone I need to forgive? Is my heart divided? Who do You want me to bring peace to?'

**Leader Tip:** Encourage real-time obedience. If someone feels led to forgive, confess, or intercede, create space for prayer.

### **Point 3: Devotion – Living for God (vv. 10–12)**

**Discussion Notes:** Persecution is not the absence of blessing but evidence of devotion. To follow Jesus means living counter-culturally, even when it costs us. The disciples gave their lives for the faith.

**Questions:** Why does following Jesus bring resistance from the world? How can we encourage one another when devotion is costly? Have you faced pushback for your faith?

**Leave Room for the Spirit:** Ask: 'Holy Spirit, where are You calling me to stand firm, even if it costs me?' Allow a pause for reflection.

**Leader Tip:** Keep the focus on hope. Suffering with Christ points to eternal reward and deeper fellowship with Him.

**Christ Connection:** Every Beatitude reflects Jesus: He became poor, He mourned, He was meek, He brought mercy, purity, and peace, and He endured persecution. Because He walked this path, He enables us to follow.

**Leader Tip:** End by pointing to Jesus, not human effort. Emphasize grace and Spirit-empowered transformation.

## 5-Day Devotional

### Day 1 – Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

**Read:** Matthew 5:3; Ephesians 2:12–13

**Reflect:** True blessing begins with admitting need. Spiritual poverty is not weakness—it's the starting point of salvation.

**Prayer:** Lord, I confess I bring nothing apart from need. Thank You for meeting me with Your grace.

### Day 2 – Blessed are Those Who Mourn

**Read:** Matthew 5:4; Psalm 51:10–12

**Reflect:** Godly sorrow leads to repentance and comfort. Mourning over sin opens the door to joy.

**Prayer:** Father, break my heart for what breaks Yours, and comfort me with Your mercy.

### Day 3 – Blessed are the Meek

**Read:** Matthew 5:5; Matthew 26:53–54

**Reflect:** Meekness is not weakness but power under God's control. Jesus could summon legions of angels—but chose the cross.

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me submit my strength to You. Teach me humility and obedience.

### Day 4 – Blessed are the Merciful, Pure in Heart, and Peacemakers

**Read:** Matthew 5:7–9; 2 Kings 18:3–6; Colossians 1:20

**Reflect:** Mercy forgives, purity loves God without divided loyalties, and peacemakers sow reconciliation. These traits flow from being filled with God's Spirit.

**Prayer:** Lord, form in me a heart of mercy, purity, and peace. Let others see Your character in me.

### Day 5 – Blessed are the Persecuted

**Read:** Matthew 5:10–12; John 15:18–20

**Reflect:** Devotion costs something. Suffering for Christ's sake is not the end but the sign of belonging to His kingdom.

**Prayer:** Lord, strengthen me to stay faithful when it's hard. Help me live fully devoted to You.