

Small Group Guide: Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Opening Prayer:

Begin your group time with a prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to understand what it means to be "poor in spirit" and how to apply this beatitude to your lives.

Key Takeaways:

1. Being "poor in spirit" means recognizing our complete dependence on God and our inability to earn salvation through our own efforts.
2. The kingdom of heaven belongs to those who approach God with humility and childlike faith.
3. God uses broken, humble people to accomplish His purposes.
4. Our faith should be placed in God's ability, not our own.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to you to be "poor in spirit"? How is this different from how the world defines success or worthiness?
2. The pastor mentioned that we must come to God "as a child." What characteristics of children do you think are important in our approach to God?
3. How does recognizing our own inadequacy before God actually lead to blessing and joy?
4. The sermon mentioned several biblical figures (Peter, Moses, Gideon, Isaiah, Paul) who struggled with feelings of inadequacy. Which of these stories resonates most with you and why?
5. How might pride or self-reliance be hindering your relationship with God or your spiritual growth?
6. The pastor said, "Our faith is not about our faith. Our faith is in who it is placed in." What do you think this means, and how can we apply this principle in our daily lives?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, practice starting each day by acknowledging your dependence on God. You might say a simple prayer like, "Lord, I need you today. I can't do this on my own."
2. Reflect on areas of your life where you tend to rely on your own strength or abilities. Write these down and pray for God's help in surrendering these areas to Him.
3. Look for opportunities to serve others in humility this week, putting their needs before your own.
4. Memorize Matthew 5:3: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Closing Prayer:

Close your group time by praying for each other, asking God to cultivate a spirit of humility and dependence on Him in each of your lives.