

Week 4: *Be Hungry – Long for God’s glory and honor*

ARRIVAL/CONNECTING and SNACK: (15 Minutes)

Spend time catching up and socializing with one another. Follow up on prayer requests and any action steps from your last time together.

SHORT OPENING PRAYER FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER: (2 minutes)

SCRIPTURE READING: (5 minutes)

Have someone read **Matthew 5:1-12** slowly enough for everyone to enjoy. Pause, then read again just **verse 6** and quietly reflect for a few minutes.

Group Leader Notes:

In the Beatitudes, Jesus offers a kingdom of lasting happiness for those who receive Him. He offers blessedness which is a spiritual state of being. But Jesus’ terms for enjoying His kingdom were very different than what the Jews might have expected. Jesus’ kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. He rules over the hearts and lives of those who believe in Him. Each principle of the kingdom seems counterintuitive to how we normally think about finding lasting peace and happiness.

- The first three beatitudes show us our need for God. They are the foundation of the kingdom.
- The next five beatitudes show us the expression of the kingdom based on the foundation.
- Now we have come to a turning point. In the fourth beatitude we see the expression of the kingdom.

OBSERVATION and REFLECTIONS: (20 minutes)

Have someone read **Matthew 5:6** once again.

- What would a righteous world look like?
- How does the world try to right all of the wrongs in the world?

Have someone read **Matthew 5:20**.

- Why did Jesus say that the righteousness of the Pharisees would not be enough to enter into His kingdom?

Have someone read **Romans 3:21-24**.

- How are we made righteous?

Have someone read **Ezekiel 36:26**

- How does the Spirit of God inside of us makes us hunger and thirst for righteousness?

DISCUSSION: (20 minutes)

- Would say that by the way you live that seeking God is your top priority? Explain.
- What are some ways that we can practically cultivate our hunger and thirst for God’s righteousness?

SURRENDER: (15 minutes)

- Let’s get personal here... What is one area of your life, related to this discussion, that the rest of the group can pray for?

PRAYER: (10 min)

Pray for one another in light of what has been shared.