

# THE BEATITUDES

## MATTHEW 5:6



### OPENING

- Ask the group for thoughts, reflections, and questions regarding this week's sermon.

### SERMON REVIEW

- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
- Have you ever had an intense craving?
- We were created to be drawn toward certain things. Jesus uses imagery that evokes that very basic desire.
- What should drive or motivate us? Righteousness. Whatever you hunger or thirst for is exactly what you will be filled with. So, if you hunger and thirst after other things, you will fill up on them—but you won't be satisfied.
- Example: the rich young ruler (from Matthew 19:16-22). The point of his story is that his desires were misplaced. Jesus always brings it back to the heart!
- The words *hunger* and *thirst* imply lack. Righteousness is not something we'll be able to attain completely before eternity, but we strive toward it to become more like Christ.
- What we hunger and thirst for affects how we live. When you hunger and thirst for righteousness, you begin to change the way you think, speak, and look at the world around you.
- Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness follow Jesus in a beautiful way; they're filled with the Holy Spirit, and they find meaning and purpose in life.

### DISCUSSION

- Read the first two verses of Psalm 42. Does it help you understand what it means to hunger and to thirst for righteousness?
- In Matthew 6:33, Jesus tells us to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness." How do we do that?
- What happens when we seek something other than the righteousness of God? How is the result of that search different than the result of the search for righteousness?
- This beatitude says that "they will be filled." What will they be filled with? And how?
- If we are currently unable to live in complete righteousness, why does Jesus say we will be filled? What does he mean?
- Pastor John said that our hunger and our thirst affect our way of life. How do desires shape actions? Do you consider those desires very influential in day-to-day life?

- What are some ways in which you could more intentionally seek the righteousness of God? Be specific!

### CHALLENGE

- Don't wait around for righteousness this week. Take initiative! Seek it out!
- Ask God to make your hunger and thirst for righteousness more profound. Pray that you'd be satisfied by nothing but his kingdom and his righteousness.

### PLAN AHEAD

- Next week we'll be studying the fifth Beatitude: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Pray through and reflect on that beforehand.