



Schedule and Titles:

Week 1

Introduction to Sermon On the Mount / *Matthew 5:1-12 with Ray Parascando*

Week 2:

Blessed Are The Humble / *Matthew 5:3 with Ray Parascando*

Week 3:

Blessed Are The Mourners / *Matthew 5:4 with Dan Cогnetta*

Week 4:

Blessed Are The Meek / *Matthew 5:5 with Ray Parascando*

Week 5:

Blessed Are The Hungry / *Matthew 5:6 with John Palumbo*

Week 6:

Blessed Are The Merciful / *Matthew 5:7 with Ray Parascando*

Week 7:

Blessed Are The Pure / *Matthew 5:8 with Dan Cогnetta*

Week 8:

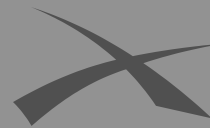
Blessed Are The Peacemakers / *Matthew 5:9 with Ray Parascando*

Week 9:

Blessed Are The Persecuted / *Matthew 5:10 with John Palumbo*

Week 10:

Blessed Are The Faithful / *Matthew 5:11-12 with Ray Parascando*



Get Connected.....15 Minutes

Opening Discussion Questions:

1. *Where is Jesus' Sermon on The Mount primarily found?*

2. *Who are the original recipients of Jesus' Sermon on The Mount?*



3. *What do you hope to get out of this Bible Study group?*

Memory Verse | Week 1:

"Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path." Psalm 119:105, ESV

Host Tip: *Stream the lesson after the memory verse is read.*



Start Lesson.....20 Minutes

Session 1: Introduction to The Beatitudes —

With Ray Parascando

Welcome to our Small Group Series on the Beatitudes. During the next nine weeks, we will cover the opening section of Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount, specifically focusing on His words on blessing and happiness. One of the common aspirations and prayers most people share is the desire to be happy. While it may surprise you, God wants you to be satisfied. However, the pathway to legitimate and lasting happiness comes by understanding and applying God's principles for blessing, known as the Beatitudes

Let's start by unpacking the terminology:

Beatitude: *state of supreme blessedness.*

Blessed: *to be happy, blissful, to increase.*

Next, let's understand the structure of Jesus' Beatitudes:

Aspect 1: *Something to pursue*

Aspect 2: *Something to possess*

Now, let's consider the context:

Identify the *recipients*

Investigate the *reasoning*

Internalize the *response*

Finally, let's review the Scripture Reference, Matthew 5:1-12:

"Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 'Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'"

Blessedness Principle: *Get in a position for God's provision of favor and blessing.*



Initial steps after reviewing the Beatitudes:

- _____ any attitude that lacks humility
- _____ yourself with God's standards
- _____ being tolerant of transgressions
- _____ stay focused on the big picture



Closing Discussion & Prayer.....20 Minutes

Host Tip: *Take time to field prayer requests. You can designate someone to pray prior to the gathering or coordinate group prayer.*

Closing Discussion Questions:

1. How is God's ideal of happiness different from the world's point of view?

2. How does pride impact the application of the Beatitudes?

3. Do you have a favorite Beatitude? (explain why)