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Head: Understanding the Bible

“Jesus is not talking about a subjective feeling of happiness—a feel good factor— but an objective fact. Those who are Christ’s disciples are under God’s blessing; they benefit from his gracious favor, with all its consequences.... We must believe we are blessed whether we feel happy or not—there is an element of feeling involved even now since Jesus exhorts them to ‘rejoice’ (5:12), but that is not the main point.

~John Legg, The King and His Kingdom

- 1) Have you read through the Sermon on the Mount as a whole? What is your first impression? What do you think Jesus is after?
- 2) Read Matthew 5:1-12. What is your first impression of the beatitudes? What is Jesus describing? Are there any beatitudes that you don’t understand?
- 3) What does it mean to be ‘poor in spirit’? Is it possible to be a Christian who is not poor in spirit?
- 4) How do we use the beatitudes in our Christian life?

Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

“Just and holy is Thy name, I am all unrighteousness; Vile and full of sin I am, Thou art full of truth and grace.” ~Charles Wesley, “Jesus, Lover of my Soul” Hymn

5) How do you measure up to the beatitudes?

6) The Beatitudes describe those who are blessed by God, as those who are sons in God’s kingdom. How does Jesus fit the portrait painted for us?

Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

“Jesus turns upside down our definition of what a hero is. Jesus challenges our dreams and desires. He wants us to be a different kind of person...to spend our time wishing that we were poor in spirit, a mourner, meek, hungry and thirsting after righteousness, merciful and so on.”

~Iain Duguid, Hero of Heroes

7) What’s the good life? What are your dreams? Compare it to Jesus’. How are the beatitudes confronting your life goals and dreams?

8) How could you use the Beatitudes to share the gospel with an unbeliever?

9) How often do you think about how blessed you are in Christ? How do you use the blessings we have to shape our character?

10) Use the beatitudes to pray prayers of repentance and faith together.