

# How To Use | Family Worship Guide



A Family Worship Guide is designed to help you worship together with your family or by yourself in your home. It is intended to help you think more personally and practically about the text we are currently studying as a church family. This guide is for 2 sittings. We recommend the first one be sometime prior to Sunday morning and the second one be sometime between Sunday night and Wednesday.

You could do this at the table, in the living room, or anywhere that you can read, discuss, pray and sing together. The guide is broken up into 6 segments:

## **PREPARATION:**

This may be a question to think about or an activity designed to prepare your mind and heart to receive the Word.

## **EXPLANATION:**

This is where the meaning of the verses is briefly explained. You will want to read it together.

## **CONVERSATION:**

There will be a few questions here to discuss together. Some of them may be too difficult for small children to engage. Don't feel like you must answer every one of them. You can pick the best ones for your situation or even come up with your own.

## **APPLICATION:**

A few brief examples of how the truth applies to your life. Sometime it will indicate something you can do.

## **SUPPLICATION:**

This means prayer. There will be a couple of prayer suggestions to help you pray God's Word together as a family.

## **EXULTATION:**

This may be a song or poem. The idea is for the family to worship together. There may be a link to a video or lyrics. We want to encourage you to actually sing together.

These Family Worship Guides are being written by people in the church, with your families in mind specifically. We trust God will use this resource to draw families together, and all of us into deeper communion with Christ.

# Beatitudes, Part I | Family Worship Guide

Matthew 5:1-6



**MAIN IDEA:** We are truly blessed when we recognize our neediness before God.

## PREPARATION:

In the first few chapters of Matthew, what similarities are there between Jesus' life and Moses' life? Pay special attention to 1:16 and the actions of the king, the locations of 3:13-17 and 4:1-2.

(Answer: Pharaoh killing Hebrew boys, passing through water before entering the desert for 40 years.)

## EXPLANATION:

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus is portrayed as being like Moses...but better. As Moses led God's people out of slavery in Egypt, Jesus is the one who will lead God's people out of slavery to sin and death itself. And like Moses went up Mount Sinai to deliver God's Law (The Ten Commandments), Jesus goes up the mountain to proclaim and unfold the fulfillment of the law in the Sermon on the Mount.

When Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," what does He mean? Why is someone "blessed" when they're poor. I don't know about you, but I don't like the feeling when I don't have enough money to buy what I want or need. The last thing I feel is "blessed." What does *that* word mean anyway? It means "happy" or "joyful" or "favored" in the Lord. The truth is that we only have true happiness when we understand we don't have anything of spiritual value to offer the Lord. If we're poor in spirit, then we recognize that we have not been good enough to earn what we need most – salvation.

Then Jesus says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." If you've ever had a pet or a family member die, then you know what it's like to mourn. It's sad to even think about. But what kind of mourning does Jesus call blessed? Mourning because of our sin. And how does God bring comfort for those who mourn their sin? By sending His Son to die to pay the penalty our sins deserve so that we might have a relationship with Him.

After this it says, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." The opposite of meekness is pride or arrogance – being consumed with yourself and how great you think you are. Someone without humility (which is what meekness is) probably has no sense of regret when they disobey or dishonor the Lord. This is a bad sign of their spiritual condition. Those who have an attitude of humility (which is to say they submit themselves to God) will one day take part in the new heavens and the new earth that the Lord will re-make when He returns. In that, they are blessed indeed.

Finally, Jesus says, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." Most of us have never felt the kind of hunger or thirst this passage speaks refers to. However, most of us remember the feeling of wanting some cold water on a hot day. In other words, it's good (blessed) to *long for* and *strongly desire* to be free from our own sinfulness and be like Christ. When we place our faith in Jesus for salvation, He grants us His righteousness in place of our sinfulness so that our *position* before God is secure. As we grow in our faith, we *progress* more and more toward Christlikeness. And finally, there will be a day when the Lord will return and completely renew our bodies so that we are like Him.

### CONVERSATION:

1. As you listen to Jesus describe those who are blessed (or happy or joy-filled) what are some ways that the world (non-Christians) would describe what it means to have a "blessed" life?
2. Have you ever felt sad because of your sin? Why does Jesus call that a good thing?
3. Are the beatitudes conditional statements? (If \_\_\_\_, then \_\_\_\_.) If not, then what are they?

### APPLICATION:

- If the Lord has done a work in your heart such that you have come to realize your spiritual bankruptcy, you mourn over your sin, you are meek, and you hunger and thirst for righteousness, then be glad and rejoice in how blessed you are.
- If the beatitudes do not yet describe you, then ask God to bless you with a sense of your own neediness before Him.

### SUPPLICATION:

- Lord, we thank you for the blessed hope we have that you will one day return and make all things new.
- Father, please grant that our faith be deepened as we understand more each day of how much we need you.

### EXULTATION:

*I Need Thee Every Hour* by Annie S. Hawks, 1872. <https://youtu.be/pqYXTK4JYz8>

I need Thee every hour  
Most gracious Lord  
No tender voice like thine  
Can peace afford

I need Thee oh I need Thee  
Every hour I need Thee  
Oh bless me now my Savior  
I come to Thee

I need Thee every hour  
Stay Thou near by  
Temptations lose their power  
When Thou art nigh

I need Thee oh I need Thee  
Every hour I need Thee  
Oh bless me now my Savior  
I come to Thee

I need Thee every hour  
In joy or pain  
Come quickly and abide  
Or life is vain

I need Thee Oh I need Thee  
Every hour I need Thee  
Oh bless me now my Savior  
I come to Thee

# Beatitudes, Part 2 | Family Worship Guide

Matthew 5:7-12



**MAIN IDEA:** The way we act toward needy people reveals the condition of our hearts.

## PREPARATION:

As a group, write down (or discuss) 10 (or more) words to describe what Christians - followers of Jesus - should be like. These should be the first words that come into your mind. Example: LOVING

## EXPLANATION:

The beatitudes are Jesus descriptions of those who are truly blessed, but they do not often line up with how the world would define a “blessed” person. Those who are truly blessed are the ones whose hearts have been changed by God’s grace.

When Jesus says, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy,” His description of the blessed life begins to take a more outward focus. We should not only recognize our *own* need for mercy (not getting what we deserve) but also recognize and respond to the neediness of others. Sometimes, showing mercy means giving to the poor or to those who cannot meet their physical needs. Often, it means forgiving someone when they have hurt you. When we treat others better than they deserve (which is what mercy is) we can rejoice in the fact that God will always treat us better than *we* deserve.

In the next verse it says, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” But how can this be? It is impossible for our hearts to be pure when our hearts are where all our thoughts, feelings, and desires come from and a lot of those are bad! The Bible says no one has a pure heart (Proverbs 20:9) *and* that no one can see God (Exodus 33:20). However, Jesus does have a pure heart and not only has He seen God...He *is* God. And He purifies our hearts through faith (Acts 15:9). It is because of this that one day His people will see Him face to face.

Next Jesus says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” If you have ever witnessed two people in an argument (or perhaps you’ve been in an argument yourself) then you understand what it means when there is not peace in a relationship. When Jesus speaks of peacemakers, He’s referring to those who help others make peace in their relationship with God. God has given his children a “message of reconciliation” (1 Corinthians 5:18-19) so that we can share the good news of what God has done for us in Christ with the world. One characteristic of those who have made peace with God through faith in Jesus is that they want others to do the same.

Finally, Jesus reminds us that whenever we suffer because of our faith in Jesus that we can and should be glad, because we can look forward to the day when the Lord will return and He will be our reward. Whether we suffer physical persecution (like being beaten) or psychological persecution (when people say hateful things or lie about us), we can rest assured that the world has always treated Jesus and God’s people the same way. When we suffer for Jesus, we don’t suffer alone. When we can respond to persecution with gratefulness in our hearts, we can truly know that our hearts belong to God.

Does your heart belong to God?

#### CONVERSATION:

4. Which beatitudes end the same way? Why do you think that is?
5. Has anyone ever said hateful or untrue things about you because of your faith? If so, how did you respond? If not, how do you think you would respond?
6. Which beatitude was the easiest to understand? The most difficult?

#### APPLICATION:

- Consider how impure thoughts and desires of our hearts can inhibit our ability to “see God” for who He is here and now.
- Cultivate an attitude forgiveness and reconciliation in our relationships with others.

#### SUPPLICATION:

- Lord, help us to show mercy to others as You have shown mercy to us.
- Jesus, we pray that you would continue to purify our hearts and deepen our understanding and faith in you.
- Father, help us to always remember that we are never alone when we suffer for righteousness’ sake.

#### EXULTATION:

*Give Us Clean Hands* by Chris Tomlin. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fm1L3wDfPKQ>

We bow our hearts, we bend our knees

Oh Spirit, come make us humble

We turn our eyes from evil things

Oh Lord, we cast down our idols

#### CHORUS:

Give us clean hands,

Give us pure hearts

Let us not lift our souls to another

Give us clean hands,

Give us pure hearts

Let us not lift our souls to another...

And God, let us be a generation that seeks

That seeks Your face, O God of Jacob

O God, let us be a generation that seeks

That seeks Your face, O God of Jacob