LIFE|group Discussion Guide

ROCK CREEK CHURCH

Sermon Series - “Upside Down” - “Poor in Spirit” Week 1

How to use the LIFE|group Discussion Guide

Talking through the message during the week helps you and your group turn what God is saying to you into action steps. Begin with the key questions, add any optional scriptures and questions if needed, and then wrap up by deciding on your next steps. Have Fun!

THE MAIN IDEA (Sermon Link: Here)

The Sermon on the Mount, the longest sermon recorded in the gospels, presents Jesus as our ultimate, God authorized instructor for living. He guides the follower to actually ***do*** *what the Word of God says. In doing so, “happiness” will follow. The “happiness” Jesus speaks of, is one of right relationship with God. The values Jesus will discuss* ***(The Beatitudes)*** *presents a complete* ***“Upside Down”*** *way of approaching life. It’s a life that steers counter culture, but a life that is abundantly worth it! Are you up for the challenge and invitation?*

QUESTION

Do you live, ***“Poor in Spirit?”***

SCRIPTURE(S)

Matthew 5:1-12; Matthew 5:3; Proverbs 3:5-7; Proverbs 14:12; James 1:5; Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 84:5; Psalm 71:16; Psalm 73:26; Psalm 31:14-15; Ecclesiastes 3:11; Isaiah 60:22; Micah 7:7; 1 Peter 2:23; Psalm 2:12; Psalm 62; Philippians 4:19; Psalm 146:5

Discussion Questions

- How was was your week?
- Is there anything that needs to be talked about or shared before we jump in?
- What’s one idea from the message that really stood out to you (good or bad)? Why did this idea grab your attention?
- Name three significant things that make you happy?
- How would you define, “...a blessing?”
- How would you like God to bless you?
- The greek word for, “bless” is, “*makarios*.” The word means, “happy.” What do you think, “happy” means?
- God wants to bless your life. However, Brian also mentioned there are things that indeed make us un-bless-able. Identify behaviors or lifestyles that God will not bless. (Remember, this is not

holding back His love - it's holding back blessings.) Stop naming other's behaviors - name yours!

- The first of the ***"Upside Down"*** way of living states, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." What does this mean to you?
- If someone were to watch your life for a week, in what ways would they identify that you are living, "poor in spirit?"
- Read **Psalm 146:5**.
- "Poor in Spirit" = ***"I humbly depend on God instead of myself or others."*** In what area of life does this need to be enveloped?
- **Homework:** Read matthew 5:1-12 everyday. If you are an overachiever, read Matthew 5-7 throughout the week.

Next Step(s) & Resources:

1. What's one thing you will do this week as a result of the message and this LIFE|group discussion?
2. How can your LIFE|group help, encourage, pray for or keep you accountable you this week?
3. Here are additional resources for the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes:
   1. **"The Gospel of Matthew"** by William Barclay
   2. **"Matthew"** by RC Sproul
   3. **"Interpretation: Matthew"** by Douglas R. A. Hare
   4. **"God So Loved The World"** by Jonathan Wilson