

Small Group Guide

Week of May 11, 2025



Icebreaker



- What's the most beautiful place you've ever been, and why did it stand out to you?
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Discussion Questions



- The sermon talks about how many people chase "the good life" through things like success, relationships, or comfort. What do you personally tend to chase when you're seeking fulfillment?
- Read John 10:10 — Jesus says He came to give us life to the full. What do you think "life to the full" means in a biblical sense?
- Have you ever had a season where you had everything you wanted but still felt empty? What did you learn from that experience?
- The sermon highlights that true life comes from connection to Jesus. In what ways are you currently experiencing (or struggling to experience) this connection?
- How do you think cultural messages about "the good life" conflict with Jesus' definition of abundant life?
- What are some areas in your life where you sense Jesus inviting you to trust Him more fully?
- The sermon mentions the importance of community. How has Christian community helped shape your understanding of the good life?
- What habits or practices help you stay centered on Jesus rather than being pulled toward worldly definitions of success?
- Think about someone you know who seems to radiate joy and peace in their walk with God. What do you notice about their life?
- What's one area of your life you need prayer for this week, where you want to experience more of Jesus' life-giving presence?

CHURCH 0419



Thought for the Group



In Matthew 5, He begins the Sermon on the Mount with what we call the Beatitudes — nine short but powerful declarations. Before He gives any commands, Jesus starts by giving us identity:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” The Greek word for “blessed” here is *makarios*, which means a deep, untouchable, soul-level joy and contentment. It’s not surface-level happiness, not success, not money, not comfort. It’s something that circumstances can’t shake.

Being poor in spirit means realizing that no matter how much you have, no matter how strong or smart or successful you are, you still need God. It’s spiritual humility, knowing that you’re spiritually bankrupt on your own. You don’t just need a little boost — you need total rescue.

Jesus says this kind of posture leads to the kingdom of heaven —not a place you go when you die; it’s a new way of life you step into today. It’s living under God’s rule, God’s reign, and God’s way. It’s where you find peace that doesn’t make sense, grace that meets you in your guilt, and hope that holds you up even when life hurts.

The good life isn’t about having it all together; it’s about admitting you need God.

Pride is sneaky — it hides behind our achievements, our independence, or even our desire to prove ourselves.

To step into the kingdom of God, we have to kneel and yield.



Next Steps



- Every day this week, take at least 5 minutes to physically kneel before God — in your bedroom, living room, or even quietly at your desk — and pray a simple prayer of surrender. Name specifically what you are yielding (pride, control, worry, achievement) and invite God’s reign into that part of your life.