

Wednesday *If you are poor...*

Read *Luke 6:20-21*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Jesus says that the poor, the hungry, and those who weep are already blessed. How can that be true?*
2. *God promises abundance to these people. What would that look like in our world today?*

Prayer Focus

Creator of all, show me what is true poverty and what is true blessedness. Show me how to live, even if your values seem upside down according to the values of the world.

Thursday *If people hate you...*

Read *Luke 6:22-23*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *These verses are about what might happen if we follow Jesus' way. Do you think these are blessings?*
2. *Have you ever experienced hatred or rejection because of your beliefs as a Christian?*

Prayer Focus

Holy Spirit, move in me today. Allow me to see my life and my world through your eyes. Help me to rejoice in you always.

Friday *Embrace God's ways, not the world's ways.*

Read *Luke 6:24-26*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What is Jesus asking us to do to avoid these woes?*
2. *What can you do to make these blessings real for your life? For others?*

Prayer Focus

Jesus, take my need for things that leave me empty, that make me truly poor in your eyes. Take away my need for things that empty the lives of others. Replace them with what you have to offer—true abundance in sharing the fullness only you and your ways can provide.

Fullness and Emptiness

Only by emptying ourselves will we experience true fullness. The things with which we often fill up our lives often leave us empty. When we are left empty by a disregarding world, God will fill us up with that which sustains.

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Recall a material gift that you have received in your life. What made it so special? Is it still important to you today?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Luke 6:17-26

Have someone read Luke 6:17-26

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)

February 24, 2019 Fullness and Emptiness



Monday *Jesus on level ground.*

Read Luke 6:17

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *This is called the Sermon on the Plain. Briefly, how is it different from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7?*
2. *What would it be like to be face to face, on a level with Jesus as he taught?*

Prayer Focus

Give thanks for the God who came to walk among us as one of us, for the one who spoke to us in person. Tell God what it means to have had Jesus with us, who knew personally what it was to be one of us.

Tuesday *The crowd around Jesus.*

Read Luke 6:18-19

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Who was in the crowd who came to hear Jesus that day?*
2. *What had drawn them there? What did they think they would see or hear?*

Prayer Focus

Jesus, your words and your actions attracted so many people to you—people who might never have come together in one place for any other reason. Thank you for being the voice that speaks to each of us, who sees us just as we are and still speaks the truth with love.