

**Way of Life Study - Week 1**  
**January 2017**

**The WayPoint: God's riches shine brightest in my poverty.**

**Essential Verse:** Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3

**Opening Prayer:** Use this prayer or open with a prayer of your own.

*Lord, we love You, and we thank You for this group You have brought together. Help each of us to grow in our relationship with You and with one another. We ask You to guide our time together and to help us see our need for Jesus every day. Amen.*

**Get Conversation Started:**

*What stood out to you from your Bible reading and the weekend message this past week?*

*Share a memory of a time when you were really hungry/thirsty.*

**Defining Terms:**

**Beatitude** - "a state of utmost bliss," *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*

**Blessed** - In this context, blessed has deeper meaning than "to be happy." This term describes those who are a part of the kingdom of God. This is a kingdom of grace, and those who are a part of it are truly blessed.

**Poor in spirit (v. 3)** - Those who understand they are broken and are cast aside.

**Meek (v. 5)** - Those who are gentle in spirit and submissive. Meekness is a mindset to willingly surrender, and in this context, surrender to the authority and will of God. This is not the same as weakness. Those who are meek have strength but yield their hearts to the Lord.

**Bible Study Focus:**

*Focus on the following passages from the Reading Plan. Ask for volunteers to read the passages, while the rest of the group follows along. Then, discuss the biblical truths below.*

**Read Matthew 5:1-12.** The way of life Jesus described as the "blessed" life in Matthew 5:1-12 was not the way of life typically celebrated in the 1st century nor today. The way of life in the kingdom of God is counter-cultural. The difference is a humble life lived in surrender to Christ.

According to Matthew 5:6, 10, Jesus is calling his audience into true righteousness and to be willing to suffer for this way of life.

*What is the difference between the righteousness taught by the Jewish, religious rulers and the teachings of Jesus?*

**Read John 15:18-27.** *What expectation should Christ-followers have when it comes to the world? What words of comfort does Jesus provide?*

**Read Revelation 21:1-8.** *How does a vision of heaven help you in the here and now?*

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**This WayPoint: God's riches shine brightest in my poverty.**

*Describe a time when you were broken (spiritually, physically, emotionally, etc...)?*

*How did God use that to reveal His love and mercy for you?*

*Have you, by faith, trusted in the work of Christ for you? What questions remain, if any, about the love and forgiveness of God given to you through the death and resurrection of Jesus?*

**Your Concerns:**

*What are your biggest concerns for the week ahead?*

**God Moments:**

*Where have you seen God at work in, through, or around you in the previous week?*

**Prayer:**

Lift up the concerns shared, and ask God to guide us to love and serve Him and others, so that He may be praised in all things.