



discussion starters.

May 2nd | Blessed

We invite you to take the content of our Sunday Morning worship hour, and discuss with a friend, your family, or your LIFEgroup each week. This is meant to be a guide for your discussions and can be used as a launching point or complete study outline. Feel free to choose all, many or even just one that will work best for your LIFEgroup.

## SUMMARY.

Following Jesus means embracing a life that tells a different story, starting with how we define “the good life.”

Each of us has values, motivations, visions of success & satisfaction that influence how we live & the choices we make.

Those who acknowledge their sinfulness, give up the illusion of self-reliance, & admit their powerlessness & unworthiness, they find the gift of God’s incomparable riches of grace & salvation.

Though it’s likely none of us will face threats of death, physical suffering, imprisonment... but if you follow Jesus, some people will likely misunderstand you, or will assume things about you, or they’ll distance themselves from you, and some will even hate you. You are blessed, because you’re in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Rather than trying to be poor in Spirit, or meek, or a person who hungers for righteousness, instead let’s behold & worship Jesus. As you worship & fix your eyes, mind & heart on Jesus, he’ll transform you, so these blessings will shape your vision of the good life.

## A SCRIPTURE TO READ.

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Matthew 5:1-12 (NIV)**

## **B** QUESTIONS TO ASK.

**1** What stuck out to you from the message? What is something God highlighted for you?

**2** We might all agree that this world has a different view of what "life" and success look like. What area of your life has looked a bit more like people who don't follow Jesus? What areas have you felt the tension of being different?

**3** What are some key ways you can fix your eyes more on Jesus and seeking Him, starting this week?

## **C** APPLICATION | CHALLENGE.

What is God speaking to you about?  
What is He calling you to do about it?

We would love to hear your highlights from this discussion so please email us at [office@avonwesleyanchurch.com](mailto:office@avonwesleyanchurch.com) or text us at 585-622-4575.

## **D** ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & RESOURCES.

Visit our webpage [www.avonwesleyanchurch.com/lifegroups](http://www.avonwesleyanchurch.com/lifegroups) for more resources and to watch bonus content.

These additional resources may include videos from The Bible Project, worship songs, and others for our younger kids.

## **E** QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS

**1**

When we give our hearts to Jesus, we are set in motion.....What should we be doing while we move?

**2**

What makes it hard to share our faith with others?

**3**

Is it easier to share our faith when we know someone is hurting and needs Jesus?

**4**

How do we meet people where they are? What does that mean? Think of an example with your group/family.