

The Beatitudes (Matthew 4:12-5:13)

CONNECT— Think of a fun-icebreaker question to ask. For example, what is your favorite winter activity?

DISCUSS

What most stood out to you from Justin's sermon this past week? What was one of your big takeaways?

Read Matthew 4:12-24.

What stands out to you about Matthew's description of the beginning of Jesus' ministry? What does Jesus emphasize in the beginning of His ministry? Why is it significant that Jesus calls disciples right at the start of His public ministry?

Read Matthew 5:1-13

What strikes you about the beatitudes?

Justin said that the middle statement of each beatitude describes the current states that those who follow God tend to experience. Describe a time when you experienced one of those current states.

Jesus proclaims that we are blessed in the midst of those current states because of the glorious future that awaits those who follow Christ. Read the end of verses 4 through 9 one more time (the statement in each verse that starts with "for"). What is good about the future that Jesus points Christians to?

Jesus suggests that that future is present in part. How have you experienced a foretaste of the future that Jesus describes in your walk with the Lord?

If you lived in light of the future that Jesus describes here, how would your life be different?

RELATE— Consider splitting into guys and girls for this section.

What has been your biggest spiritual highlight this week?

What has been your biggest spiritual struggle this week?

IMPACT (Invite, Engage, Share)

Have everyone identify one main action step that they are going to take in light of this passage.