



Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

The Big Idea

Live in such a way that your relationships reveal the cross.

Message Summary

As we learned in the first message of our new "Win/When" series, there will be times that we are tempted to "stay on the mountain" instead of going "into the valley" to live out what we were taught on the mountain. This week could be one of those times for you. The Beatitudes (as they are commonly called) are a list of 8 qualities that ARE in our DNA as followers of Jesus. This isn't a list of things we should try to do or hope to acquire. This is a list of who we actually are and sometimes the way we're living doesn't match new nature we've been given, especially when it comes to relationships. Let's be honest: people can drive us crazy! But that's why followers of Jesus can stand out in the culture as being radically different. And when our activity matches our identity, it will **always** reveal the cross!

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- Since this is the first group of the new year, take some time to allow everyone to introduce themselves and then answer the following question: "What are some areas of personal spiritual growth that you'd like to see in 2020?"
- How do these promised blessings compare with what most people in the world prize? Would "Kingdom people" be admired in our society? Why or why not?
- In what sense do we miss God's kingdom if we do not acknowledge our spiritual poverty and need?
- How might godly mourning over sin be expressed?
- How do the hunger and thirst for righteousness resemble physical hunger and thirst?
- Describe a time when you received mercy from someone else and the difference it made in your life.
- What are some of the costs and rewards of being a peacemaker?
- Identify some differences between being persecuted for the sake of Christ and simply drawing opposition for being obnoxious.
- Think back through the 8 qualities: Poor in Spirit, Mourning, Meekness, Spiritual Hunger, Mercy, Purity in Heart, Peacemaker, Persecution. Which 2 do you desire most in your life right now? Which 2 are you most tempted to avoid? Why?