

## **MPC GROWTH GROUP REMINDERS**

Over the next 8 weeks together, there will be growth group materials provided to each growth group leader and they will also be available to download from our website for individual use.

### **GUIDELINES FOR MEETING TOGETHER**

As we begin to meet, it is good to be reminded about some of the basics of what it means to be a part of a group. Here are five topics you might consider as part of that initial discussion.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** What is said in the group stays in the group. Talk about this and make sure everyone is on the same page with this value and what it means.

**LISTEN:** Value one another during the discussions by **really** listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond or fix someone's problem. See listening as a gift you are giving to someone.

**SHARING:** Be sensitive about the amount of time you share. Try and hear relatively equally from all members of the group.

**SENSITIVITY:** There is a lot happening in the world. On top of all the stuff that we can see, there are things that people are going through that are unseen. Be sensitive to the fact that there may be people who are really hurting or very anxious, stressed, scared, or angry.

**FORMATION OVER INFORMATION:** My hope is that being a part of an MPC Growth Group shapes you into a more faithful follower of Jesus – and not just an accumulation of more information about Jesus. What are your thoughts on this? How does this inform how you spend your time together?



**“Blessed are the Poor in Spirit”  
Week 1 in a 9-week Series**

Preached: February 23, 2025  
Scripture: Matthew 5:3  
Series: “The Beatitudes” – Week 1 of 9

**SECTION 1 – CONVERSATION ABOUT GROWTH GROUP GUIDELINES**

**SECTION 2 – GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS**

1. What is the best lesson you have ever been taught in a classroom? Who was the teacher? Why was the teaching so impactful for you?
2. Have you heard of these “Beatitudes” before? As you read or hear them for the first time OR as you hear them again – what is your initial response? Does a particular phrase stick out to you?
3. Take a moment and have someone in your group read the Beatitudes – (Matthew 5:1-12) out loud and then see if someone else in the group has them in a different translation and read those aloud. What do you hear? What differences are there between the translations?
4. When Pastor Keenan preached, he suggested an alternate translation of the word blessed. He suggested – “the good life is for those who.” What do you think of that suggestion? How does it change what Jesus is saying? Helpful? More confusing?
5. When you hear “poor in spirit,” what comes to mind for you? When is a time in your life when you were, “poor in spirit?” What did/does that look like / feel like? What does the Kingdom of Heaven look like?

6. If you were to finish this phrase, “the good life is for those who....” How would you complete this phrase?

### **SECTION 3 – PRAYER**

Where do you need Jesus to meet you today as you are gathered together around God’s Word? How can others pray for you in asking him to meet you in your place of need?

### **SECTION 4 – SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**

Pastor Keenan outlined a spiritual practice during his sermon on Sunday. He invited everyone to take a copy of the Beatitudes – OR EVEN BETTER – MAKE YOUR OWN COPY of the Beatitudes and place it somewhere in your home that you will see every day. Look at it. Read it. Contemplate the different parts of it. See what Jesus might be wanting to say to you during Lent. My prayer is that you will draw closer to Jesus as you read these powerful words of the Sermon on the Mount.

### **SECTION 5 – THINKING ABOUT MISSION**

If the Sermon on the Mount is a playbook for how to live the Christian life, how can we begin to take these words of Jesus and actually live them? How do we embody Jesus as we interact with others based on the reading and study of the Beatitudes? How do we make this more than an exercise by just putting more religious words in our head and instead allow the words to saturate our entire being?

### **SECTION 6 – ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

In 2024, the Bible Project spent the entire year focused on the Sermon on the Mount. During our study and reflection, I will identify specific resources from them that can expand your perspective on the ins and outs of the words of Jesus. The following gives a beautiful overall introduction to Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/bibleproject/id1050832450?i=1000640214718>