

Sermon Discussion Guide

Kingdom Citizens: Week 1

Prayer

Take a few moments at the beginning and end of your group time to pray for each other and for your discussion in God's Word.

Read

Matthew 5:1-12

Main Ideas

This week, Dr. John Dickson kicked off our new series studying the Beatitudes, Jesus' introduction to His Sermon on the Mount. Jesus describes those who are "blessed", offering a counter-cultural message where those who are poor in spirit, meek, and persecuted are declared blessed, fortunate, and happy.

Jesus' entire sermon, and this introduction in particular, invites us to consider the differences between the Kingdom of God and the "kingdoms" of this world.

Icebreaker Question

- What period of history would you be most interested in going back and experiencing?

Discussion Questions

1. What comes to your mind when you think of the word "blessed"? How have you heard it used in the world today? According to the sermon, how should we understand what it means to be blessed?
2. Looking at these verses, what differences do you see between Jesus' description of "the blessed" vs. what our culture describes as "the good life"?
3. Read Luke 6:20-22.
 - a. What similarities do you see between Luke and Matthew's accounts of Jesus' teaching?
 - b. What differences can you find?
 - c. What perspective can Luke show us that is distinct from Matthew's account?
4. Do you see these blessings in the life of Jesus? If so, where?
5. Of these beatitudes, are there one or two that you identify with the most?