

“Heart For The House”

“The Blessed Life”

warm-up

Group Ice Breaker:

Think about a time when you’ve had a “gut feeling” about a situation, relationship or decision. Did you listen to that feeling or not? What was the outcome? What did you learn?

word & application

Read:

Matthew 5:3-4

“(3)Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (4)Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

John 14:26-27

“(26)But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. (27)“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”

Observations:

- BLESSED = “makarios” in Greek: an enviable (fortunate) position from receiving God’s provision (favor). Literally, an extension of God’s grace.
- KINGDOM = “basileia” in Greek: royal power, kingship, dominion, and rule.
- Jesus turned the existing belief system upside down by describing the “poor in spirit” and the “mournful” as having a state of being thought to be reserved for those judged righteous by the Law of Moses. This conveys a message of grace and favor – not by virtue of our own works and accomplishments, but **DESPITE** our state of being.
- As Jesus was preparing to leave His disciples, He communicated the fulfillment of the promises in Matthew 5:3-4 through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit brings power and comfort into our lives as we draw near to God and allow Him to fill us. As a result of our seeking God, the Holy Spirit overflows us and into the lives of others.

Discussion & Application:

- What would it mean to you to receive the Kingdom of Heaven?*
- How would you describe a state of being comforted?*
- How can we shift our focus from our own shortcomings to receiving the promise of God (through His Spirit) to be comforted and empowered for His glory?*

prayer

Pray over group requests. Share any “God moments” from the past week. Pray that we can recognize the areas in our lives where we are “not enough” and pursue God’s desires to fill our empty capacities and overflow into the lives of others.