



# Small Groups!

date : November 4, 2020

*Loving God,*

*We praise you for  
your abundance!  
Abundant love!  
Abundant belonging!  
Abundant hope!  
Abundant life for  
every child of yours!  
Please help us to  
break down the  
systems around us  
which cause harm,  
and to bring your  
Kingdom to our  
world today.*

*Amen.*

## Opening Ritual and Prayer -

Begin by lighting the candle and inviting every to say, "We begin in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."



Use the Prayer  
to the side!

Share Blessings & Bruises  
with your Small Group!

Guides, pick one or all  
questions to answer...

- Have you ever run out of something important? What did you do?
- If you were going on a trip for a weekend and could only bring 5 items, what would you bring?
- Would you rather live in a home without electricity or a home without running water?
- Would you say you are more happy or more joyful?

Conversations  
on  
Purpose ...



Remember "Tell me more!!!"

# GameTime



## Imaginary Traveler

- Taking turns each player imagines where they might travel to and what objects they might like to take with them on their trip.
  - The first player starts with the letter A. (i.e. I'm going to Alice Adamson's and I'm taking an apple.)
  - The next player continues with the next letter of the alphabet. (I'm going to Baltimore and I'm taking my bird.)
- While there might not be a winner for this game, it encourages them to think creatively.

## Scavenger Hunt List

Oatmeal	bowl
Loaf of bread	cup of water
Ice cube	teddy bear
Halloween candy	band-aid
Piece of art work	rake



# BACKGROUND

Life was extremely difficult for people who followed Jesus. A small group of wealthy people—people with lots of money, land, and honor—controlled almost everything. Money and land were some of the most powerful things a person could have in Jesus' time. Another important thing was honor. To have honor meant to have people's respect and to belong. This same group of people made decisions in their government which helped them get more money, land, and honor. Those decisions also made life harder and poorer for others by taking money, land, and honor away from them. This is called an oppressive system. Jesus began to help people by healing them from all kinds of sickness and telling them about God's kingdom. You can think of a "kingdom" as the way the world works or is set up, normally under a king. After healing so many people's hurts and pains, Jesus cared for them in another way. He brought them up a mountain and sat down to teach them, bringing healing to their hearts, souls, and minds. Jesus told the people God wants everyone to have all they need and no one to be harmed or oppressed. In God's kingdom, there is abundance: more than

enough food, money, love, and resources for every child of God to thrive. When there's enough for everyone, no one needs to fight or oppress anyone else. Everything Jesus taught and did was about breaking down hurtful, oppressive systems, and building up God's kingdom of abundance instead. Jesus listed nine ways people are "blessed." To be "blessed" meant to be joyful/happy in the fullest. People often thought joyful/happy happened because of their situation or circumstances (or how life was going for them); people still think that today. The kind of people Jesus described as "blessed" or "happy" seemed strange. Jesus said happy/joyful or blessed people are those we might usually think of as unlucky or having lots of trouble. Jesus' topsy-turvy teaching showed them they are loved, they are special, they are not alone. He encouraged them to see this in one another, too. Jesus blessed people through his actions and words. He gave them hope.

Interesting to note that some sources say that the word "blessed" means great joyfulness and some say the word means happiness??

## Reading Directions: Matthew 4:23-5:12

Small Group closes eyes and listens while Guide reads the bible verses. **On the back page!**

1. Bible verse is read a second time by a Small Group youth
2. Small Group circles or highlights what “sparkles” or stands out to them.
3. Share what you circled or highlighted!!! And share why you liked it or why it caught your attention.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What does the word abundance mean?
2. In John 10:10b, Jesus says, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” What do you think that means?
3. What do you have in abundance?
4. What is the difference between the words, “joyful” and “happy”?
5. Share a time when someone helped you heal (e.g., put a band-aid on you, cleaned you up after a fall, received help from a doctor or hospital).
6. How do you think the people listening to Jesus felt when they heard about God’s kingdom of abundance?
7. What does it mean to have power?
8. When have you noticed a situation when someone with more power (authority, respect, or belonging) harmed those with less power?
9. Do you feel you have power?
10. When do you feel powerless?
11. BONUS QUESTION: Why were people so drawn to Jesus and what he had to say?

### PRAYER...



**“I’m going to light a candle for...”**

**amen.**



“KINGDOM ACTIVITY”: Have participants find one or more things home that they think:

- look like the kingdom of God
- sound like the kingdom of God
- taste like the kingdom of God
- smell like the kingdom of God
- feel like the kingdom of God

After each hunt for an item or a time for all items to be found, take time for each person to share what they found with everyone.

Ask: Why does it remind you of God’s kingdom?



# Matthew 4:23-5:12

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. 24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. 25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

## 5

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

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.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

