



Small Groups!

date : November 11, 2020...*last class until January!*

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!

God of hope, Thank you for
encouraging our hearts
and strengthening our spirits
with your promises!
Please help us live your way—
as merciful, pure-in-heart
peacemakers
who bring your kingdom to
earth here and now.
Show us who needs your hope
today, and lead us to share it.
Amen.

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

1. Do you like to hike? Share about a memorable hike?
2. Have you ever or do you still sleep with a stuffed animal or favorite blanket?
3. Name one person you would like to be stuck on a desert island with...
4. Share a promise you made that you didn't keep...

Conversations
on
Purpose ...



Remember "Tell me more!!!"



GameTime

Guides:

1. Make sure you have two dice with you.
2. You can roll for each member of your small Group, or if they have a pair of dice, they can roll their own.
3. They answer the questions that corresponds with the number on their dice!
4. A great way for sharing!



Roll the Dice Break the Ice

1. My favorite television show is...
2. My favorite movie is...
3. My favorite place is...
4. My favorite band/singer is...
5. My favorite song is...
6. My favorite store is...
7. My favorite book/author is...
8. My favorite sports team is...
9. My dream car is...
10. My favorite food is...
11. My favorite actor/actress...
12. My dream job is...
13. In ten years I will be...
14. If I were a millionaire I would...
15. For a hobby, I...
16. The craziest thing I ever did was...
17. If I could travel anywhere new I would go...
18. The thing that makes me the happiest is...
19. The most important thing in my life is...
20. Make up your own question for the whole group!

BACKGROUND

Jesus had been spending a lot of time healing people. In addition to their physical hurts and pain, he saw people also had broken hearts and unsteady hope. After healing so many people, Jesus decided to care for them in another way. He led them to a mountain. Jesus knew mountains reminded people of God's presence with them, so he chose a mountain as a good place to give an important sermon. A sermon is a talk meant to teach and help people grow in their relationship with God. People were so committed to Jesus that they climbed the mountain to listen!

In the sermon on the mountain, Jesus listed nine ways people are "blessed." To be "blessed" meant to be happy or satisfied. People often thought being happy or content was a result of their situation (or how life was going for them). But as we know, **Jesus likes to turn what we think we know upside down and show us a new way.** The people listening to Jesus were aston-

ished! Some were confused. Some were surprised. Some were relieved. People who were mourning and very sad were blessed (happy to the fullest)?! Meek, gentle people receive power over the earth?! This is the opposite of what their culture said. Their culture told them power and possessions were what made a person happy or blessed. Notice each beatitude includes two parts. First, Jesus makes a statement; then he gives a promise. For example, Jesus makes the statement: "Blessed are the poor in the spirit." Then Jesus gives the promise: "for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." In each of these verses, Jesus named a group of people we wouldn't usually think of as happy or content, then offered them a promise for healing and hope right now - not just in the future. The way Jesus promises these blessings is his way of bringing God's kingdom to us here and now.

Key Words:

Mountains

Blessed

Promise

Sermon

Reading Directions: Matthew 5:1-12

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. Talk about a place that is very special to you...
2. What makes it a special place?
3. Why do mountains seem like they are holy spaces?
4. Have you noticed anything different about the reading this week compared to last week?
5. Which of the blessing statements do you like best?
6. What surprised you about Jesus' Sermon?
7. What do you think it means to be "blessed"?
8. What are the blessings that come to you every day?
9. How do you think the people hearing these promises from Jesus felt?
10. What are some modern beatitude ideas you have? Blessed are... (think of those who may feel less than others, are treated as less, etc)
11. What does God promise to us?
12. How can we help to bring God's kingdom to others in this time and space....



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PRAYER...

"I'm going to light a
candle for..."



amen.

KEY VERSE: "he went up the mountain..." Matthew 5:1

Matthew 5:1-12

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."

