



RIDGEPOINT CHURCH • GROW GROUPS GUIDE

Blessed, Fortunate, and In a Good Place

A Better Way

WEEK 1

MATTHEW 5:1-12

Brent Warkentin • August 23, 2026



LEADER PREPARATION

Thank you for investing in your Grow Group each week!

- If you have questions, need help, or are looking for additional resources, visit our Grow Group Leader page: ridgepointwichita.com/growleaders
- Looking for an easy icebreaker? Grab the NOT JUST SUNDAYS card game we handed out. Try just a few cards each week—have everyone answer one card, or let people choose between two. It's a simple way to keep building relationships!
- This discussion guide is exactly that—a guide. Skip questions, add your own, spend longer on a verse, or adjust it to fit your group. You know your group best! And if you have feedback on these guides, please let us know.

Opening (10 min)**OPENING QUESTION**

Think of a time you looked at a problem — a broken relationship, a bad habit, a mess at work or home — and thought, “There has to be a better way.” What did you try?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Today launches a new 7-week series through Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) called “A Better Way.” Jesus opens His sermon with eight blessings — the Beatitudes — describing a better way to live than the one our culture usually hands us. “Blessed” doesn’t just mean happy; it means fortunate, favored, in a good place with God. The first three beatitudes describe our posture toward God (poor in spirit, mourning, meek), the next three describe our transformation by God (hungering for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart), and the last two describe our impact on others (peacemakers, persecuted). Every one of them pairs a posture with a promise — God is describing not just how to live, but what He will do in response.

KEY POINTS

- ◆ Jesus opens His most famous sermon with eight “blessings” that chart a better way to live — [Matthew 5:3–12](#).
- ◆ “Blessed” means fortunate, favored, in a good place — not necessarily comfortable, but cared for by God.
- ◆ The eight beatitudes move through three movements: our posture toward God, our transformation by God, and our impact on others.
- ◆ Each beatitude pairs a promise with the posture — from the kingdom of heaven, to comfort, to seeing God Himself.



UP · 20 MIN

A Daily Relationship with God

BIG IDEA

God calls us to a posture of humble dependence, honest grief over sin and brokenness, and surrendered gentleness — not self-sufficiency or self-defense. This “better way” of relating to God starts with admitting how much we need Him.

SCRIPTURE AT THE CENTER**Matthew 5:3**

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

This describes people who are completely dependent on God — the opposite of “I can handle life, I don’t need God.” The poor in spirit say, “I need God, I need grace, I can’t live well without His help.” The kingdom of heaven isn’t a place; it’s God’s gracious rule over a heart — and that’s exactly what people who depend on Him will want to step under.

Matthew 5:4

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Our natural instinct is to avoid anything that makes us sad, but Jesus blesses a heavy heart over sin, injustice, and the brokenness of this world. Living “bubble-wrapped” from life’s heartaches isn’t how God wants us to live. And to those who mourn, He promises His comfort, His presence, and a day when sin’s power will finally be defeated.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The proud say, “I can handle life, I don’t need God.” The poor in spirit say, “I need God, I need grace.” Which voice do you hear more often in your own head?
- Brent described mourning as carrying a heavy heart over sin, injustice, and brokenness rather than staying insulated from it. What’s something right now that genuinely grieves you?
- Meekness was described as “restrained power” — choosing not to control, dominate, or defend yourself. Where is that hardest for you to practice?
- Each beatitude pairs a posture with a promise. Which promise — God’s kingdom, His comfort, inheriting the earth — do you most need to hold onto this week?



IN · 15 MIN

A Shared Life Together**WHY THIS MATTERS**

Hungering for righteousness, showing mercy, and pursuing a pure heart aren’t things we can manufacture alone in private. Real transformation gets tested and shaped inside real relationships — the kind your Grow Group is built for.

SCRIPTURE AT THE CENTER

Matthew 5:6

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

This is a hunger pang for being right with God, living right before God, and seeing His right way of living prevail. Like a good meal that leaves you satisfied without being uncomfortably full, a person who pursues righteousness has peace and a clear conscience — instead of the grumpiness that so often comes from sin.

Matthew 5:8

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

This is the difference between identity (who we are) and behavior (how we live). By God's grace, our identity is already made pure — but the blessed ones are those whose behavior actually lines up with that identity. The promise isn't a passing glance at God; it's truly experiencing Him as real.

GROWING TOGETHER

This past Sunday, Ridgepoint launched its new Sending Service as part of the "Deep and Wide" push — going wide through a new service option, and going deep through dozens of new Grow Groups launching this fall. Character like this — mercy, purity, hunger for righteousness — grows best in exactly the kind of shared life your group is building together.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Brent described hungering for righteousness as wanting to "be right with God, live right before God, and see God's right way of living prevail." Where do you feel that hunger — or the lack of it — in your own life right now?
- Mercy means withholding judgment someone deserves, not just giving kindness they don't. Who's someone you've been quick to judge instead of showing mercy to?
- Pure in heart is about aligning what we believe with how we live. Where do you feel that gap the most right now?
- Growth like this rarely happens alone. Who in your life — maybe in this group — actually helps you live these beatitudes out, not just admire them?



OUT · 10 MIN

An Outward-Focused Faith

LIVING IT OUT

The last two beatitudes turn outward. A *peacemaker* is more proactive than a *peacekeeper* — Jesus blesses those who take the initiative to step into fractured relationships and bring peace, the way Christ Himself made peace with us through His cross (Colossians 1:20). And those persecuted for righteousness are promised the same outcome as the poor in spirit: the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Closing challenge from Brent: of the eight beatitudes, which one is God inviting you to grow in this week?

FOCUS ON GROUP PROJECT

OUT PROJECT UPDATE

- Depending on your group's OUT Project, there may not be much to report each week, and that's okay! The biggest thing is simply keeping us in the loop.
- If you haven't already: please let us know what your group has chosen for your OUT Project.
- As you go: keep us updated on any significant changes, needs, or progress with your project.
- Need ideas, resources, or guidance? Visit our [Grow Group Leaders page](#) for more help.

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together by inviting the group to share prayer requests. Then lead the group in prayer, drawing from these prompts from today's sermon:

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray that each person would recognize and embrace their need for God — being "poor in spirit" — rather than self-sufficiency.
- Pray for those carrying grief over sin, injustice, or brokenness, that they would know God's comfort (Matthew 5:4).
- Pray for opportunities this week to be a peacemaker in a specific relationship, rather than just a peacekeeper.
- Pray for Ridgepoint's new Sending Service and the "Deep and Wide" push, that many would go deeper in community and wider in impact.



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