

Life Group Lesson - Week of 4/7

This lesson is based on Matthew 5: 1-12.

Highlight

One of the best ways to highlight Scripture is to look for repeated phrases or themes. When the author says something again and again, it clues the reader to what his primary theme might be. A second study skill is to look for contrasting words.

- Highlight a verse or words that stick out to you.
- Highlight the nine beatitudes.

Explain

In this portion of our study, we're intending to figure out Matthew's meaning to his original audience, as well as those of us who read this today. **Remember, the Bible cannot mean what it never meant.**

- Explain what the word blessed means.
- Explain how the beatitudes are counter cultural to today's culture.

Apply

This is now the portion of our study where the rubber meets the road. While the text CAN ONLY have one meaning, there are several different ways it can apply to our lives today.

- In the sermon, Jerry said that it is difficult to receive mercy because we don't know how to show mercy. What makes receiving mercy difficult? What makes showing mercy equally difficult?
- While there could be slight persecution in parts of America, there is very real, devastating persecution in other parts of the world. How will you pray for the persecuted church this week?

Respond

According to Daniel Akin at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, "Observation + Interpretation, w/o Application = Constipation."

- How have you experienced persecution because of faith in Christ and the embodiment of the beatitudes?

- Choose one of the beatitudes that you will focus on living out this week. Share this with your group and have someone hold you accountable.