



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

18 NOVEMBER

FLOURISHING: PURE IN HEART

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements.

MAIN TEXT: *Matthew 5:1-12*

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them.

He said:

- 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 be shown 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
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil
against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be
glad, because great is your reward in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the
prophets who were before you.

COMING UP

Alpha: 15th Oct – 10th Dec
Academy: 21st Oct – 2nd Dec
Morning Prayer: 4th, 11th, 18th Dec, 7.30am
Christmas Family Service: 9th Dec
Carol Service: 16th Dec
Christmas Service: 23rd Dec
New Year Celebration: 30th Dec

***B.L.E.S.S. means:** Begin with Prayer, Listen with care Eat together, Serve with love, Share Jesus Stories. For more info see westminsterchapel.org.uk/bless.

GETTING STARTED

We want to develop and strengthen a healthy culture of encouragement at Chapel, so each week we'll start our LG's by sharing something we want to thank God for: an encouraging thing He's doing in our lives, or in the lives of others. What ways have you been able to B.L.E.S.S.* those around you in recent weeks?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Do you long to see more of God? (Be honest!) Why/why not? Why do we so often lack the desire to see God more fully? And what are the implications/consequences of seeing God? (Think of examples in the Bible as well as your personal life.)
2. What does it look like to be 'pure in heart'? How can holiness lead to happiness?
3. Reflect on Dan's example of a wheel where all spokes (areas of life) are connected by one hub (the desire to *seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness*). What are practical steps we can take to overcoming spiritual apathy and impurity? How can we bring all areas of our lives together in one hub?
Hint: Remember the three **Ds**:
 1. Identify the area in your life where there is **Dirt**.
 2. Get rid of **Distractions**.
 3. **Delight** in God again.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 13:12. Do you remember a time when you felt your spiritual eyes were opened and you were able to grasp who God is on a deeper level? (Share stories beyond your conversion stories.)

5. Look at Matthew 23:25-26. What is Jesus rebuking the Pharisees for? *Hint:* examples are in the whole of Matthew 23. What are modern day examples of only looking at people's outward cleanness? Are there groups that are judged more harshly by the Church because their dirt is on the outside and therefore more obvious?

NEXT STEPS AND PRAYER

The revivalist John G. Lake said that the most powerful prayer any Christian can pray is, "*God, make me hungry for you.*" Read Psalm 17 together. Have a few minutes of silence for people to individually reflect and repent of any impurities and hypocrisy. Then start praying for each other to be refined and to see more of God – along the lines of the three Ds above.

Pray also for our Christmas services: that many would experience God's glory and be changed.