

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

11. The kingdom traits presented in the Beatitudes stand in opposition to many of our culture's ideals. What are some things that people tend to turn to for happiness, other than to God and His blessings? Why is pursuing the joy of the kingdom better? How do we do that?

12. What causes us to forget about the kingdom of God and our need for Him? How can we remind ourselves daily that we're first and foremost citizens of God's kingdom?

13. What do the Beatitudes look like when they are lived and embodied in Christian community? How can we demonstrate these attitudes of the heart toward each other in our Growth Group?

Prayer Requests

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March 20, 2016
The Joy of Anticipation
Luke 19:28-44

Sermon Notes

The Story

The crowds were filled with the joy of anticipation ...
F_____ t_____ W_____ T_____

- Philippians 3:20
- Hebrews 9:28
- John 14:4
- Matthew 6:33
- John 16:33

What do we E_____ A_____ ?

1. Things that D_____ N_____ S_____
 - Hebrews 11:13-16
 - 2 Timothy 3:1-5
 - Romans 12:19
2. Things that S_____
 - Romans 8:23
 - Philippians 3:20
 - John 18:33-38

Our anticipation must focus on H_____ K_____
not O_____

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

March 20, 2016

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

1. What are some ways you have seen heaven or the afterlife depicted in the movies?
2. When you think about the picture of eternity presented in Scripture, what do you anticipate or long for? How much of your anticipation is off the mark of what we know will really happen?

DIGGING DEEPER

READ MATTHEW 5:3-6.

3. The Beatitudes show us what it looks like to live as Kingdom people today and the joys that await us in eternity. Verses 3 through 6 address inward qualities. How would you describe each of these kingdom traits in your own words? How do the Beatitudes in verses 3-6 relate to the promises that follow them?
4. The common theme throughout the Beatitudes is recognizing ones need for God. Would you say you recognize your need for God in day-to-day life? What are some things that make this challenging?
5. Why should living for the Kingdom of God be where we find our hope and joy? According to Jesus' teaching, what awaits the citizens of His kingdom?

READ MATTHEW 5:7-9.

6. Verses 7 through 9 examine outward qualities. Consider what it means to be full of mercy, quick to make peace, and to have a heart that is pure. Why are each of these important kingdom traits? How do we affirm and encourage these traits in one another?

7. When we are merciful, pure, and seek peace, how do we experience the joy of the kingdom? Have you found this to be true in your own experience?

READ MATTHEW 5:10-12.

8. What do these verses have to say about being persecuted for the sake of Christ? Have you ever experienced persecution or been marginalized because of your faith in Christ?

9. Jesus says we are blessed when this happens to us. How does this promise cause you to change your perspective from one that is temporal and earthly to a kingdom-minded perspective?

10. In the Lord's prayer, we pray, "Your kingdom come." What are we asking God to do when we pray this? Why should the reality of persecution cause us to long for and pray for this coming kingdom more earnestly?