

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Middle-High School

DATE: 8/23/20

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:1-12

LESSON: The Beatitudes

INTRO

This conversation guide exists to help parents interact with their middle and high school students. Our goal in having middle and high school students attend gatherings (or worship at home) with their parents is to help them transition toward being adults who are fully functioning members of the church. But most middle and high school students still need some translation and help connecting what they're learning to their lives. We want our sermons to be accessible, but they aren't specifically targeted toward the transitional teenage years.

- **Read Matthew 5:1-12.** What do you think it means to be blessed? How do you think Jesus' view of happiness is different than how our culture thinks and talks about happiness?
 - What do you think your friends would say are important things to be a happy person?
 - In your school, what are the cultural beatitudes you hear most often? I.e. "Blessed are the _____." (popular, attractive, smart, athletes, rich, talented, etc.)
 - Which of these is the most compelling to you? (Fill in the blank: "Of course I would be happy if I had _____!")
- **Reread Matthew 5:3-4 and 10-12.** Why does Jesus say that these people are blessed even if they're circumstances are going terrible? Have you ever experienced a sense of deep joy and happiness even in a sad/hard season?
 - What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"?
 - Why is the gospel required to live the blessed life that Jesus describes here in the Beatitudes?