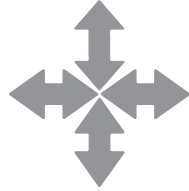




## GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of March 15th

This study is designed to help your community group grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. There are three dimensions to following Jesus.



**UP:** growing in relationship with God

**IN:** growing in relationship with other followers of Jesus

**OUT:** growing in relationship with the world around us  
as we join God in God's mission.

Sermon: Jesus – Teaching the Kingdom (Matthew 5:1-17)

Key Verse:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Matthew 5:3*

### Getting Started:

What earthly kingdom(s) do you most readily identify with? The kingdom of America? The kingdom of Colorado Outdoor Enthusiast? The kingdom of Economy?

### Time of Prayer:

Together, begin with prayer. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and guard your time together. Pray that you will understand what God is speaking to you through His holy Word. Pray that God will use this time to further direct your heart to Him, to walk in all His ways. Pray that your time together results in the further inbreaking of the Kingdom of Heaven, which heals our hearts and brings salvation ever closer to the yet-believing community around us as we move toward our neighbors in the love and strength of Christ.



## UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Together as a group, read aloud Matthew 5:1-17.

Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note any words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1. How many times do you see the words “blessed” in our passage this week? How does this word correspond to the imperative found in verse 12 to “rejoice and be glad”? How ought we understand ourselves as the people of God?
2. Which beatitude seems most counter-cultural, most upside-down to you? Why?
3. Which beatitude is your heart most drawn to as you read Matthew 5:3-10 this week? Why?
4. Why does Jesus use images of salt and light to describe citizens of the Kingdom of God?



## Out: Connect with the World Around Us (Join God in His Mission)

1. How can you further embrace and celebrate the conditions of being “poor in spirit, sorrowful, meek, hungry for righteousness, merciful, pure, peaceful, and persecuted?” Encourage one another that as we experience these things in Christ, we are truly blessed in the Kingdom of God, having great reason to “rejoice and be glad.”
2. How can you be “salt” to someone you will likely interact with this week who has yet to say yes to being a citizen of the Kingdom of God?
3. How can you be “light” to someone you will likely interact with this week who has yet to say yes to being a citizen of the Kingdom of God?



## IN: Connect with Each Other

Pastor Tim encourages us with this word: “Jesus keeps saying things like, ‘you will see God. You will know God’s comfort. You will inherit something from God. You will be called children of God.’ That’s more than citizenship. That’s family.”

How are you doing in living into your identity as a citizen not primarily of this world, but of the Kingdom of God – where you are not just a citizen, but a child of the King?

Pressing into the level of vulnerability that your group has built to date, close your time by sharing your highest joys and sorrows with one another. Celebrating that Jesus is King, confess and rejoice together. Invite the Spirit to minister to your hearts. Ask God to give you the spiritual eyes to see how He desires to use you to be His witness in the coming days. Groups of 3 – 5 are ideal for this intimate, crucial time together.