



**PART 1 OF 3: THE WAY UP IS DOWN
SUMMER ON THE MOUNT**

Group Discussion Guide



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Summer on the Mount: The Way Up is Down Group Discussion Guide

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Series Overview

Jesus Christ begins His “**Sermon on the Mount**” by pronouncing blessings on those whose lives exhibit qualities that sharply contrast with popular views in the world.

The **Beatitudes** ([Mat 5:1-12](#)) describe the attitudes associated with righteousness. We can think of them as the “**be**” attitudes.

The Sermon on the Mount is more difficult to keep than the original Ten Commandments!
-Warren Wiersbe

Purpose of This Guide

The primary purpose of this group guide is to reinforce and deepen the lessons of the Grace Church message series: **Summer on the Mount**.

Beatitudes 1-3

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-5

1 *And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:*

3 *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

4 *Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.*

5 *Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. (NKJV)*

Icebreaker: Compare and Contrast

As a group, think about where many people in our culture find fulfillment. Contrast that with where Jesus says believers can find fulfillment.

<i>Popular Sources of Fulfillment</i>	<i>A Believer's Sources of Fulfillment</i>

Discussion Questions

- Being **poor in spirit** doesn't mean you view yourself as worthless. It means you have a healthy sense of unworthiness. What is the difference?
 - ▶ [Isa 6:5](#)
 - ▶ [Luke 5:8](#)
 - ▶ [1John 1:9](#)

- How do the following verses describe the **poor in spirit**?

Psa 10:17

Rom 12:3

- ▶ In what areas of your life do you tend to depend on your talents and possessions?
 - ▶ What would it take for you to fully rely on Jesus Christ?
- What role do we have in comforting **those who mourn** (**Rom 12:15** and **2Cor 1:3-4**)?
 - How can sorrow turn into joy (**Isa 61:1-3**, **John 16:20**, **1The 4:13-14**)?
 - In what way is **meekness** important in interacting with others (**Eph 4:2-3** and **Php 2:3**)?
 - **Meekness** is not weakness. It is power under control (**Mat 11:29**). What are some of the reasons that Christ was meek?

Dig a Little Deeper: Meekness

Read **Ephesians 4-6**, noting all instances of meekness in the Christian life.

Application Exercise: Pray for Meekness

During the coming week, pray each day that God gives you a meek and gentle spirit as you interact with others.

Beatitudes 4-6

Scripture: Matthew 5:6-8

6 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

7 *Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.*

8 *Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. (NKJV)*

Icebreaker: Give Away

What is something you would give away if you knew you would get it back twofold later? Be creative!

Discussion Questions

- What is your attitude toward sin? Check all that apply to you.
 - Generally, I'm a good person. I don't worry about sin.
 - Sin makes me sad.
 - Sin disgusts me.
 - I long to become more like Christ. I submit my life to Him [[Php 3:7-14](#)].

- In what ways does hunger and thirst for **righteousness** please God [[Pro 15:9](#) and [Mat 13:43](#)]?

- God expects us to be **merciful** [[Mic 6:8](#), [Zech 7:9](#), [Luke 6:36](#)]. What opportunities are available to us to show mercy within our church and our community?

- What are two reasons that human effort alone cannot attain **purity**?

Ecc 7:20

Pro 30:12

- What can help us become **pure in heart**?

1John 1:7

John 15:3

Jas 4:7-8

Dig a Little Deeper: Righteousness

What is one thing righteousness includes according to **Deuteronomy 6:25** and **1John 3:7**?

Application Exercise: Merciful

During the coming week, find an opportunity to be merciful.

Beatitudes 7-9

Scripture: Matthew 5:9-12

9 *Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.*

10 *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

11 *"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.*

12 *Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (NKJV)*

Icebreaker: Peaceful Person

- Who is the most peaceful person you know?
- What makes him or her so peaceful?
- What in your life holds you back from being peaceful?

Discussion Questions

- Here are two reasons for being a **peacemaker**.
 - ▶ To help others see the Lord (**Heb 12:14**)
 - ▶ To be a good leader (**Titus 1:6**)What are some other reasons for being a peacemaker?

- One of the most frustrating things you may experience is to have others **persecute** you because you insist on doing the right thing. What are some ways that others might persecute you?

Psa 38:12, Acts 6:11-13
Ezra 4:4-5, John 9:22

- How does God deal with persecutors (**1Tim 1:12-14**)? In what way does God's view alter your reaction to persecutors?

- Two common methods of **reviling** are ridicule (**Neh 4:1-3**) and ostracism (**John 12:42**). Which would bother you the most and why?

- What do the following verses suggest you do if you experience rejection?

Psa 27:9-10
2Tim 4:16
Jas 1:2-3
Acts 5:28-29

Dig a Little Deeper: Comfort

Meditate on the following:

- ▶ God is committed to His people (**1Pet 1:18-19**).
- ▶ God is compassionate and forgiving (**1John 1:9**).
- ▶ Other believers can be a source of comfort (**2Cor 1:4**).

Application Exercise: Peacemaker

During the next week, seek opportunities to be a peacemaker.



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