

UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM - WEEK 2-

MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCUSSION GUIDE-

LEADER'S NOTES:

Hey leaders! Remember, you are the GUIDE for conversation, not the teacher. It's tempting to want to do all the 'talking' in the groups, but life groups are designed for students to INTERACT with each other as well as self discover the truth that we find in the Bible!

CORE QUESTION:

- What does it look like to live a blessed life?

CORE THOUGHT:

- I will live a blessed life when I show mercy, pursue purity, and make peace, even in the face of challenges

KEY SCRIPTURES:

- MATTHEW 5:8-12

"BLESSED are the merciful, For they will be shown mercy. BLESSED are the pure in heart, for they will see God. BLESSED are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. BLESSED are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

ICEBREAKER:

- Share a fun "plot twist" story from your life –something that didn't go as planned but turned out great in the end!

QUESTION 1:

- What stood out to you from Pastor Caleb's message?

HAVE A STUDENT READ MATTHEW 5:8-12

QUESTION 2:

- What does it mean to be "pure in heart"? How can we strive for purity in our thoughts and actions?

QUESTION 3:

- Why do you think Jesus includes being persecuted as a part of being blessed? How can this perspective change how we view difficult situations?

QUESTION 4:

- In what ways do the values of Jesus' kingdom (as shown in the Beatitudes) contrast with what you see in your culture today?

QUESTION 5:

- What's one specific way you can embody one of these Beatitudes this week? How will you hold yourself accountable?

END IN PRAYER REQUESTS

UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM - WEEK 2- HIGH SCHOOL DISCUSSION GUIDE-

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QUESTION 2:

- How can understanding the mercy you've received from God influence how you extend mercy to others, especially those who may not deserve it?

QUESTION 3:

- Why do you think Jesus frames persecution as a blessing? How can adopting this perspective help you remain resilient and hopeful during tough times, especially when facing opposition for your beliefs?

QUESTION 4:

- Discuss how the values of Jesus' kingdom challenge societal norms you encounter daily. What are some specific instances where you've felt pressure to conform, and how can you respond differently?

QUESTION 5:

- How does recognizing your calling to be merciful and a peacemaker challenge you to step outside your comfort zone? What fears or barriers might you need to confront to live this out?

UPSIDE DOWN KINGDOM - WEEK 2- HIGH SCHOOL DISCUSSION GUIDE-

QUESTION 6:

- What is one specific Beatitude you feel called to live out in the coming week?

END IN PRAYER REQUESTS