



## LEADER PAGE | SERIES | Best Sermon Ever | WEEK 1 of 11 | Sermon date: May 30, 2021

**Discipleship Phrase:** His heart, my hands.

**Big Idea for Series:** Jesus' heart for the kingdom is on full display.

### **Abiding** (*grow as a disciple yourself*)

This week, we are focusing on the beatitudes. These particular words spoken by Jesus are some of the most powerful in the Bible. They are foundational to who we are as Christ-followers; they are His heart for the Kingdom of God. Each beatitude speaks to blessing. As you work through these verses spend time considering how your perception may differ from the reality of God. How you see, treat and/or perceive the marginalized matters to God. If you're not living on the fringes, it is His desire that you use your life, means and energy to help those who are. Be praying this week about how you can make a difference. Ask the Holy Spirit how you can grow and change in this aspect of your life.

### **Leading** (*facilitate your group effectively*)

Prior to group this week prepare yourself for Life Group by thinking about the word "blessing". Challenge your group to really think about what "blessings" or "being blessed" means. Focus on where people find their security and how they define success. Are they two completely different things? If not, ask your group how they measure the success of their Christian life. Does financial security or status mean that you have God's favor on your life? From the scripture of Matthew 4:23-5:12, do group members include themselves in any of "those" people (the marginalized)? Help the group to park on the statement "Following God will always take you to the marginalized, in the uncomfortable places." Who blesses those in margins? Let your group know that these are some challenges for us to live out as followers of Christ. Jesus' heart was always for justice and righteousness. How can you lead your group to make steps into these places in our culture just as Jesus did in His?

### **Shepherding** (*know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep*)

As the leader of your group, you are the shepherd. From a shepherding standpoint, how might you be able to lead your group into "blessing" the marginalized as discussion question #5 prompts us this week? One way would be to press into some outreach opportunities involving our first-tier ministry partners. If you'd like to know more info on who those are, simply email us at [group@southeastcc.org](mailto:group@southeastcc.org) and we'll send you some details. Also, coming soon, we'll have a variety of episodes on the Life Group Leader Podcast that will highlight these ministries!

### **Church Announcements** (*be in the know & share with your group*)

- Every Thursday night from 6:30-8 PM there is a prayer meeting in Meeting Room A. No need to register! Just come and join others in praying for our church, our community, and our nation.

**REMEMBER: "Every group deserves a great leader."**

# LifeGroups at Southeast

**SERIES** | Best Sermon Ever | **TOPIC: The Beatitudes** | **WEEK 1** of 11 | **Sermon date: 5/30/21**

**Welcome/Introductions** (*creating a relational environment starts here; be friendly & acknowledge everyone*)

**Open in Prayer** (*kickoff every group gathering with honoring the Lord*)

**Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows** (*choose one that is best for your group this week*)

**Weekly Vision Checklist** (*See Flipbook re: announcements, the “why”, goal, outreach, guidelines, & branching*)

**Ask a Hook Question** (*a thought-provoking question to get the group heading in the right direction*)

What would you say your greatest blessing is?

**Recap the Message** (*ask a couple people to share what stood out to them in this week’s message*)

**Scriptures References** (*Read scriptures **directly from the Bible**—it carries its own authority*)

**Matthew 4:23-5:12** (NIV)

**Implications** (*takeaways from the message*)

1. The Kingdom is incomplete without those on the margins.
2. In fact, the Kingdom has no margins at all.
3. Each beatitude is an insistence that the Kingdom is most present with those who look and feel most distant.
4. As Jesus followers, we leave here today knowing that the further we get from this building, the closer to the Kingdom we are.

**Discussion Questions** (*going beyond the surface*)

1. What do you think “blessing” meant to the original audience of this sermon (Mt.4:23 – 5:12)?
2. What would you say “blessing” means to the audience of today?
3. What does “blessing” mean to you personally?
4. How do these verses (Mt.5:3 – 5:12) describe those who would be blessed?
5. How then might we be a “blessing” to the marginalized, so that God is glorified?

**Prayer Requests** (*record, share, and follow up throughout the week. Use the LEAD App or CCB if possible.*)

**Closing Prayer** (*ask openly for a volunteer, encourage your people to step outside of their comfort zone regularly*)