

Beatitudes

HOLY GROUND IN
UNLIKELY PLACES

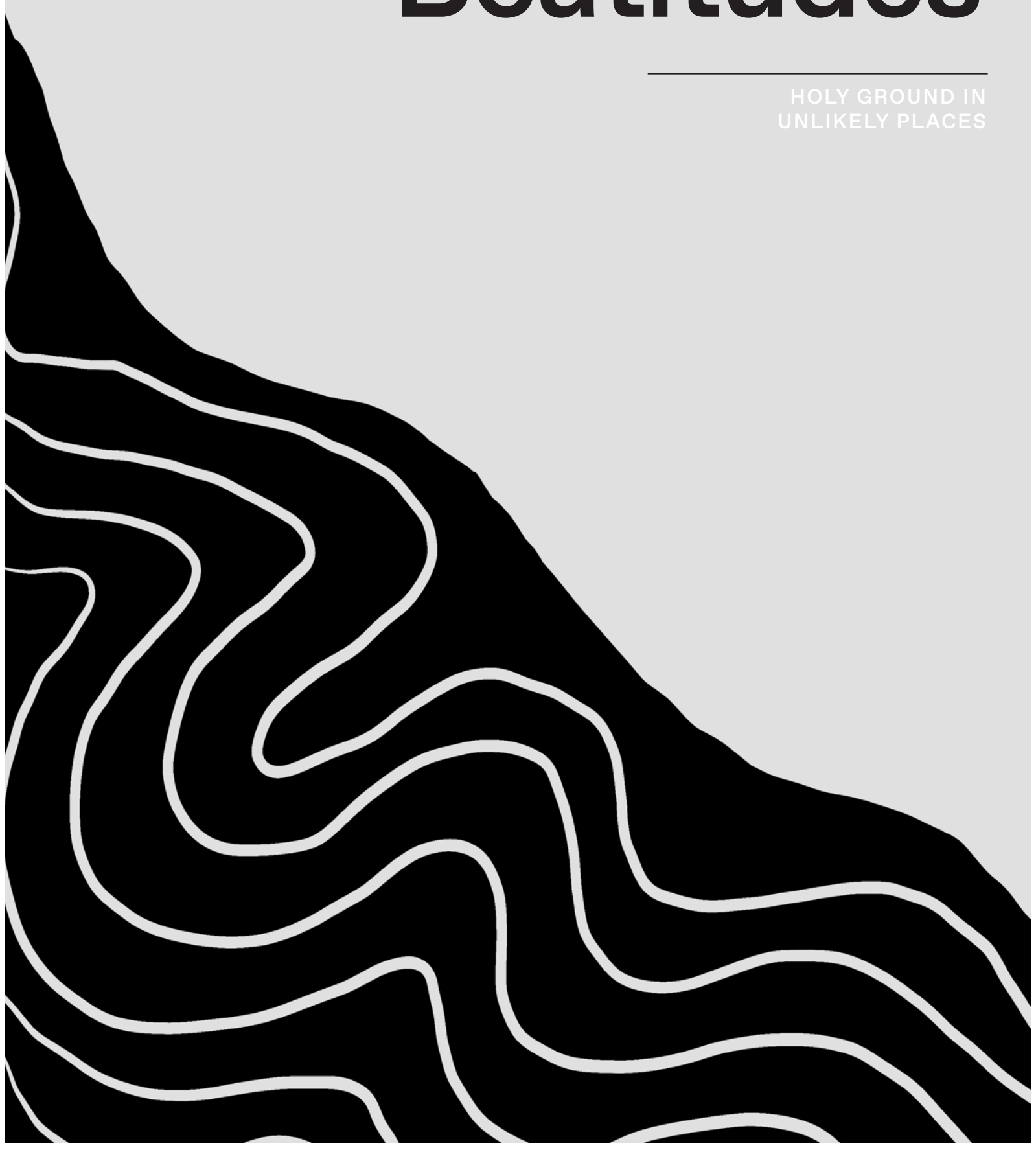


Table of Contents

01

Welcome

02

Using This Guide

07

Week 1 - Matt 5:3

15

Week 2 - Matt 5:4

23

Week 3 - Matt 5:5

31

Week 4 - Matt 5:6

39

Week 5 - Matt 5:7

47

Week 6 - Matt 5:8

55

Week 7 - Matt 5:9

63

Week 8 - Matt 5:10

71

Responsive Reading

72

Resources

Welcome Friend.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus doesn't hand us a to-do list – He invites us into a way of being.

These blessings are not rewards for the strong or successful but a gracious unveiling of the kind of life that aligns with God's Kingdom. It's a life marked by humility, mercy, longing, and vulnerability – a life that opens itself to the Presence of God.

In this series, we are sitting at Jesus' feet, listening as He speaks blessing over the broken and the brave, the wary and the willing. These words form us. They reshape our assumptions, reorients our desires, and draw us into deeper trust.

Together, we're learning what it means to be with Jesus, to be formed by His heart, and to walk in His way – even when it runs counter to the world around us.

As we study the Beatitudes together, here's a fun bit of history: this is actually the third time we've explored them as a church - once in 1987, again in 2007, and now. You can access all three sermon series (past and present) by texting **"ODSERIES"** to 77411.

We invite you to journey with us, using this reflection guide as a companion along the way. It's designed to help us engage more deeply with the Scriptures, reflect on what Jesus is saying, and pray throughout the week.

WELCOME THE BEATITUDES...

Using This Reflection Guide

Welcome! This reflection guide is a helpful tool for our sermon series on The Beatitudes. It's designed to help you reflect more deeply on Scripture throughout each week and encourage you to spend time listening to God. Here's how to use it!

SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

Begin each week by taking notes as you listen to the Sunday sermon. Use the space provided to jot down notes and wonderings including anything God may be saying to you. These notes can help you reflect more deeply later in the week.

MIDWEEK REFLECTION

A few days after the sermon, you are invited to take some time to reflect and respond. This section includes:

- Sitting in Scripture.
- Taking time to imagine the scene.
- Prayer including silent listening.
- An invitation to respond.

RESPONSE PAGE

This page gives you space to process what God is stirring in you. Use the questions to help reflect more deeply, journal your thoughts, or respond in prayer. It's a space to be honest, attentive, and open.

NEED TO REVISIT THE SERMONS?

You can quickly access the sermon series by texting "ODSERIES" to 77411. This is a great way to stay connected or catch up if you miss a week!

Matthew

5:1-12 (NIV)

⁵ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

THE BEATITUDES

He said:

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

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**“The Beatitudes present
a radical redefinition of
blessedness, challenging
conventional notions of
success, power, and
happiness.”**

- DALLAS WILLARD

**“Blessed are the
poor in
spirit, for theirs
is the kingdom
of heaven.”**

MATTHEW 5:3

Week 1

Taking notes is a simple way to hold on to what you've heard and can help you reflect more deeply.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

9

Midweek Reflection

“BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT...” MATT 5:3

WEEKLY CHECK-IN WITH GOD

Take some time to talk with God about what is happening in your life. If you are in a group setting, take some time to also share a little of your life with each other.

READ MATTHEW 5:1-2

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

PICTURE THE SCENE

Close your eyes and image the scene. See the mountainside, feel the air, and sit down among the disciples right at the feet of Jesus.

PAUSE & PRAY

Holy Spirit, we love You and want to be taught by You. Help us hear, notice, and wonder with You as we read the Scripture together. Open our hearts we pray. In Jesus's name, Amen.

READ TWICE SLOWLY

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

SILENT LISTENING

Quietly listen for five minutes, simply opening your heart and mind to what God may have for you in this moment. Don't feel pressure to make something happen - just rest and set your heart on Him knowing He is with you.

RESPOND

Take a few more moments to wonder with God about what stood out to you. Use the questions on the next page to write out some thoughts.

Respond

Write down any words or noticings that may have stood out to you after reading the Scripture passage twice. Do you sense any invitations?

Is there anything from Sunday's sermon that you want to mention here?

What would you like to learn more about or maybe sit with longer?

SHARE

If you are in a group (with a friend, your family, or a study group), take some time to share a little about your responses.

PRAY

Take time to pray - either on your own or if you're with someone else then we invite you to pray for each other!

CLOSE

Flip to the responsive reading on page 71.

**“Blessed are
those who
mourn, for they
will be
comforted.”**

MATTHEW 5:4

Week 2

Taking notes is a simple way to hold on to what you've heard and can help you reflect more deeply.

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17

Midweek Reflection

“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN...” MATT 5:4

WEEKLY CHECK-IN WITH GOD

Take some time to talk with God about what is happening in your life. If you are in a group setting, take some time to also share a little of your life with each other.

READ MATTHEW 5:1-2

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

PICTURE THE SCENE

Close your eyes and image the scene. See the mountainside, feel the air, and sit down among the disciples right at the feet of Jesus.

PAUSE & PRAY

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Respond

Write down any words or noticings that may have stood out to you after reading the Scripture passage twice.

Is there anything from Sunday's sermon that you want to mention here?

What would you like to learn more about or maybe sit with longer?

SHARE

If you are in a group (with a friend, your family, or a study group), take some time to share a little about your responses.

PRAY

Take time to share prayer requests in your group and pray out loud for each other.

CLOSE

Flip to the responsive reading on page 71.

**“Blessed are
the meek, for
they will inherit
the earth.”**

MATTHEW 5:5

Week 3

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25

Midweek Reflection

“BLESSED ARE THE MEEK...” MATT 5:5

WEEKLY CHECK-IN WITH GOD

Take some time to talk with God about what is happening in your life. If you are in a group setting, take some time to also share a little of your life with each other.

READ MATTHEW 5:1-2

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

PICTURE THE SCENE

Close your eyes and image the scene. See the mountainside, feel the air, and sit down among the disciples right at the feet of Jesus.

PAUSE & PRAY

Holy Spirit, we love You and want to be taught by You. Help us hear, notice, and wonder with You as we read the Scripture together. Open our hearts we pray. In Jesus' Name Amen.

READ TWICE SLOWLY

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

SILENT LISTENING

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PRAY

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CLOSE

Flip to the responsive reading on page 71.

Week 4

**“Blessed are
those who
hunger and
thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be
filled.”**

MATTHEW 5:6

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Midweek Reflection

**“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR
RIGHTEOUSNESS...” MATT 5:6**

WEEKLY CHECK-IN WITH GOD

Take some time to talk with God about what is happening in your life. If you are in a group setting, take some time to also share a little of your life with each other.

READ MATTHEW 5:1-2

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

PICTURE THE SCENE

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Respond

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Is there anything from Sunday's sermon that you want to mention here?

What would you like to learn more about or maybe sit with longer?

SHARE

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PRAY

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CLOSE

Flip to the responsive reading on page 71.

Week 5

**“Blessed are
the merciful,
for they will be
shown mercy.”**

MATTHEW 5:7

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41

Midweek Reflection

“BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL...” MATT 5:7

WEEKLY CHECK-IN WITH GOD

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READ MATTHEW 5:1-2

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

PICTURE THE SCENE

Close your eyes and image the scene. See the mountainside, feel the air, and sit down among the disciples right at the feet of Jesus.

PAUSE & PRAY

Holy Spirit, we love You and want to be taught by You. Help us hear, notice, and wonder with You as we read the Scripture together. Open our hearts we pray. In Jesus' Name Amen.

READ TWICE SLOWLY

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

SILENT LISTENING

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PRAY

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CLOSE

Flip to the responsive reading on page 71.

Week 6

**“Blessed are
the pure in heart,
for they will see
God.”**

MATTHEW 5:8

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49

Midweek Reflections

“BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART...” MATT 5:8

WEEKLY CHECK-IN WITH GOD

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READ MATTHEW 5:1-2

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

PICTURE THE SCENE

Close your eyes and image the scene. See the mountainside, feel the air, and sit down among the disciples right at the feet of Jesus.

PAUSE & PRAY

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READ TWICE SLOWLY

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PRAY

Take time to share prayer requests in your group and pray out loud for each other.

CLOSE

Flip to the responsive reading on page 71.

**“Blessed
are the
peacemakers,
for they will be
called children
of God.”**

MATTHEW 5:9

Week 7

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57

Midweek Reflection

“BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS...” MATT 5:9

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PICTURE THE SCENE

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READ TWICE SLOWLY

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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CLOSE

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**“Blessed are
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persecuted
because of
righteousness,
for theirs is the
kingdom of
heaven.”**

MATTHEW 5:10

Week 8

[illegible]

Midweek Reflection

**“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS...” MATT 5:10**

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Matthew 5:10-12 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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Flip to the responsive reading on page 71.

Responsive Reading

LEADER

Acts 20:32 (NLT)

And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself.

ALL

We part from one another this day
With gratefulness in our hearts
For the work God is doing in us.

LEADER

It is God's work to awaken;
It is God's work to complete.

ALL

We part from one another this day
under the great love and mercy of Christ
to save and redeem us all. Amen.

Resources



THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Dallas Willard

<https://qr.me-qr.com/OFI5j07z>



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Dietrich Bonhoeffer - Pages 103-114

<https://qr.me-qr.com/5vPuFNaK>



THE BIBLE PROJECT: WHAT ARE THE BEATITUDES?

The Bible Project

<https://qr.me-qr.com/JPjoANUh>

Text “ODSERIES” to 77411
for instant access to all the
links to the past and
current sermon series
on your phone.

Sermon Series Links



1987 SERMON SERIES

Church of the Open Door

<https://qr.me-qr.com/UBUvF1hq>



2025 SERMON SERIES

Church of the Open Door

<https://qr.me-qr.com/YGp7zqoZ>



2007 SERMON SERIES

Church of the Open Door

<https://qr.me-qr.com/u6qQMmeH>



Open Door

thedoor.org