



## **“EMPTY”**

**MATTHEW 5**

### **Small Group Plan**

*“Failures aren't failures  
if you learn something from them.”*  
— Anne Morrow Lindbergh —

*“Failure is only the opportunity  
to begin again, more intelligently.”*  
— Henry Ford —

*“God entrusts great tasks  
to those who have handled great failure.”*  
— Landon Saunders —

### **OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...**

- What is one thing you can't do (public speaking, bungee jumping, swimming)? How do you know you can't do it and when did you learn?
- For all the emphasis put on our need to overcome obstacles, why is it also good to admit our weaknesses?

### **LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...**

#### **— BLESSED? —**

**Matthew 5:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them

- The word “*blessed*” carries the meaning “*happy*” and “*fortunate*.” How do people typically try to find happiness and fulfillment in today's world?
- When someone says, “*I just want to be happy*” what do they usually mean?
- A lot of the world's so called “*happiness*” comes at a very high personal and emotional cost. How has the search for happiness taken it's toll on individuals, families, marriages and children?

— **EMPTY** —

**Matthew 5:3**

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

- The word “*poor*” is used here and 34 other times in the New Testament to mean poor in comparison to rich. “*Spirit*” does not refer to the Holy Spirit, but to the human spirit, the real you. By putting poor and spirit together, what is Jesus trying to say?
- Why does Jesus say that poverty of spirit is an indispensable conditional for receiving the kingdom of God?
- Why is it so difficult for us to admit our spiritual poverty?
- How are we “*blessed*” by admitting it?

— **LOST** —

**Matthew 5:4**

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

- Mourning is not often admired in our culture. Why?
- Why is a good cry good for the soul?
- Why would those who truly see their spiritual emptiness feel a need to mourn?
- Is all mourning healthy? Explain.
- What is the difference between “*godly sorrow*” and “*worldly sorrow*” (2 Cor. 7:10)?

— **TEACHABLE** —

**Matthew 5:5**

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

- Why has “*meekness*” been typecast as “*weakness*”?
- The literal meaning of meek is “*teachable*.” How would you describe someone who has a teachable, openness spirit?
- Why does **admission** (poverty of spirit) and **contrition** (mourning) naturally lead to **openness** (meekness)?

### ***USE IT / APPLY IT ...***

- God wants the older to pass their wisdom on to the younger. How do the older gain their wisdom? What role do mistakes and failures play in finding wisdom?
- Regarding ethics and character, what are the greatest failures of the average person?
- How can these failures educate?
- How can failure motivate?
- How has God worked through your failures to bring maturity and faith?
- Close by asking God for the teachable heart of a child.