

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Looking Right Side Up | Matthew 5:6

Purpose of Discussion: To cultivate a greater hunger and thirst for righteousness

Sermon Refresher: Only when we hunger and thirst for righteousness will we ever find the satisfaction for which we all hunger and thirst. Righteousness is living for the right-side-up realities of God's kingdom.

Icebreaker: Share about a time in your life that you got excited about something or purchased something only to discover it was a bust, a big let-down.

Discussion:

1. When we say that someone is a very blessed or fortunate person, what kinds of blessings do we typically have in mind?
2. Read Matthew 5:3-10 out loud to see who Jesus says is truly blessed.

How does who we normally consider to be blessed or fortunate compare with who Jesus says is truly blessed?

3. How does reading this description make you more hungry and thirsty for righteousness?

Digging Deeper: What is righteousness? Look up these verses in the Psalms and share what you learn: Psalm 11:7, 111:3, 119:75, 145:7

Righteousness is the morally right, good, pure, just, lawful, perfect character of God Himself. "The concept of righteousness in the Bible has at least three aspects: moral, social, legal."¹ To live according to His righteousness is to flourish as a person and as a society in every way.

4. Why is righteousness what we really want/need more than anything else?

¹ *Sermon on the Mount: 12 Studies for Individuals or Groups*, John Stott, page 11

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5. When we eat junk food right before dinner, we aren't hungry for the real thing. What are some of the righteousness-substitutes (habits, distractions, escapes) that keep us from feeling our spiritual hunger?
6. What would it look like to hunger and thirst for righteousness in each of these areas: in our personal lives? in our relationships/families? in our society? in our world?
7. Describe a time in your life where you experienced spiritual hunger and thirst? What led to it? What effect did it have on your life?
8. Jesus promises that if we hunger and thirst for righteousness, we will be satisfied. What are some things we can do to increase our hunger and thirst?

Sharing and Prayer:

Consider one of these options:

1. Since we are starting off a new semester together, it's a good time to catch up with each other. Share 2 things:
 - a. Catch us up on how things are going in your life. Anything new, exciting, stressful, or hard in your life?
 - b. Since we talked about righteousness, where do you need God to work His righteousness into your life this fall?

OR

2. Divide up men and women for a more vulnerable conversation. Sharing questions: What do you think suppresses a deeper spiritual hunger in your life? What steps do you need to take to grow in righteousness this fall?