

# Life in the KINGDOM

## Part 6: *The Inside-Out Kingdom-02*

Matthew 5:1-12 • November 4, 2018

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*Digging Deeper* this week...

**BiG iDEa:** The Beatitudes: Jesus tells me I am “blessed” in His inside-out kingdom from the inside, out.

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Kingdoms. Governing institutions. Hidden powers. Personal agendas. Set aside some *time* throughout this week to read and reflect on what God’s word says about His kingdom in contrast to our own. Some questions are provided for you or a small group of friends to provide focus for your reflection. Before your start: Breathe, pray, ask the Holy Spirit for help.

### Identify

What does being “happy” or “blessed” in life mean to you? In what ways have you experienced this in good and/or difficult times?

### Read

*Scriptures to grow by...* Matthew 5:1-12; Romans 12:9-21; Luke 6:20-26; Luke 10:20; Ecclesiastes 3:1-14; Psalm 23; Psalm 37:1-11.

### Reflect

1. What words, phrases or ideas stand out to you from the Bible readings you read today? How do these passages help you face each new day with a sense of hope that God sees you and is with you?
2. How do these words, phrases or ideas connect with your everyday life? What do they lead you to think or to do?
3. How do you respond to the statement about the *Beatitudes* that Jesus’ idea of being “blessed” or “happy” in life is not an attitude or character trait we must strain to attain but rather a sense that you are perfectly safe in God’s kingdom regardless your situation in life? Is there anything you would like to say to Jesus about this? Is there something He might be saying to you?

### Respond (*Soul-Work*)

*Moving forward...* Write a set of Beatitudes reflective of your own life. For example: “Blessed are those who are anxious” or “Happy are those who are bald, or sick,” etc. Be sure to end each thought with the words, “for theirs is the kingdom of God.” As you reflect on what you wrote, what do you hear Jesus saying to you as His disciple? What might He want you to know and do in order to live with greater confidence in His kingdom?