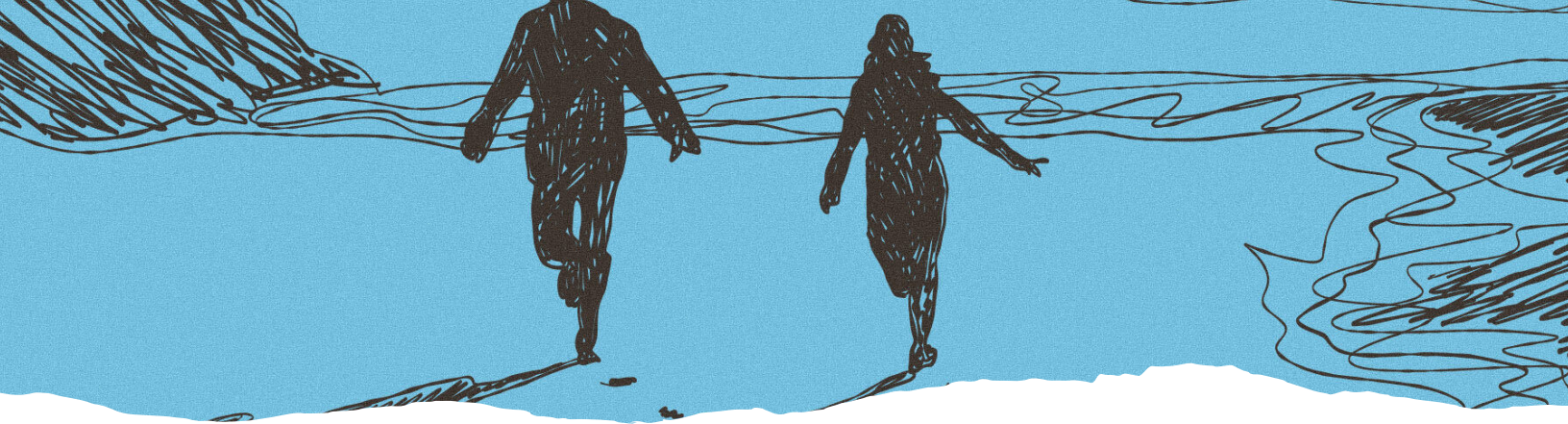




DISCUSSION GUIDE I Week of September 20, 2026

ICEBREAKER STARTED

- When you were younger, what did you think a good life would look like?
- Who comes to mind when you think of someone who lives well? What stands out about them?
- What is something you once thought you needed to be happy that matters less to you now?

INTERPRETIVE QUESTIONS

- Read Matthew 5:1–12. What surprises you about the people Jesus calls blessed?
- Look at the promise that follows each “blessed.” How do those promises help explain what Jesus means by a blessed life?
- What does it mean to be “poor in spirit”? What might that look like in someone’s relationship with God?
- What do you think it means to hunger and thirst for righteousness? How do mercy, purity of heart, and peacemaking help us understand the life Jesus is describing?
- The same promise appears in verses 3 and 10. What is it, and how might it encourage the people Jesus describes?
- In verses 10–12, why are these people being persecuted? What reasons does Jesus give them to rejoice?

FORMATIVE QUESTIONS

- Which part of Jesus’ description of the good life is hardest for you to trust? Why?
- Where do you find it difficult to admit that you need God or other people?
- Is there a relationship right now where Jesus’ words about mercy or peacemaking challenge how you’ve been responding?
- Which promise in this passage do you need to hear this week? What would trusting that promise look like in something you’re facing?

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