



# CIBC Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

*This guide is designed to help guide life group discussions of this week's sermon at Cayman Islands Baptist Church. For more information on life groups and other discipleship opportunities at CIBC, please visit [www.cibaptist.ky](http://www.cibaptist.ky).*



## Get the Picture

**-Title:** *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness"*

**-Series/Text:** The Flourishing— Matt. 5:1-12

**-Date:** Oct. 25, 2020

**-Speaker:** Pastor Helbert

**-Main Idea:** The flourishing person in the kingdom of God is the one who hungers and thirsts for righteousness.



## Group Discussion

### a) Connect

- 1) **Commit:** Before you begin, agree as a group that you will commit to having an honest discussion about this text without casting any judgment or sharing any unsolicited advice.
- 2) **Read:** Read **Psalm 139:23-24** out loud before you pray to begin the discussion.
- 3) **Pray:** Pray over the group and ask the Lord to *"Search your heart"* and reveal idols that are keeping you from receiving truth.

### b) Engage

- 1) **Read:** Read Matthew 5:1-12 and look for repeating words and major themes that stand out. How do these observations help you understand the section as a whole?
- 2) **Discuss:** Why do you think Jesus uses the imagery of hungering and thirsting in this beatitude rather than, say, the imagery of seeking, pursuing, or acquiring? What does this imagery convey about the act he describes?
- 3) **Discuss:** How might the following groups of people fill in the blank in this sentence: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for \_\_\_\_\_ for they shall be satisfied." Ladder-climbing executives? New mothers and fathers? Students in the middle of a semester of studies? The factory worker on their 30th anniversary with the company? The 2nd string quarterback or the understudy of the lead of a play? The wife of an uncaring or workaholic husband? You, when you are not satisfied with your job or family? You, last week prior to starting to study this verse? You, this morning prior to coming to church? You, right now, at this very moment?
- 4) **Discuss:** What is the righteousness Jesus is talking about?

- 5) **Discuss:** What is different about this kind of filling or satisfaction?
- 6) **Discuss:** What do you think the consequences or results are of not fostering a spirit of hungering and thirsting after righteousness?

### c) Apply

#### 1) **Consider: How do these passages relate to this topic?**

Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance (Isaiah 55:1-2).

Has a nation changed its gods, which are not gods? But my people have changed their glory for what does not profit. Be astonished, O heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid; Be very desolate, says the Lord. For My people have committed two evils. They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn for themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water (Jeremiah 2:11- 13).

#### 2) **Respond:** Practical ways to develop a hunger and thirst for righteousness

First, spend some time looking into the mirror of God’s Word (James 1:22-25). You will see that what you’re eating spiritually might not be resulting in a biblically healthy self.

Second, come to treasure Christ as fully satisfying every need of life. That life in him is the fully flourishing life. Wrestle with John 6:56 and see how it applies to your life.

Third, commit to putting all of your effort tomorrow, with the help of the Spirit to apply one thing you have learned in this study.

### d) Pray

- 1) **Silent Prayer:** Enter into a time of silence to allow God to speak to you in response to everything you discussed today. Listen for areas where He may be telling you He wants you to step out in obedience.
- 2) **Group Prayer:** After a time of silence, close out the study with a group prayer for God’s grace to develop a hunger and thirst for righteousness.



## Going Deeper

#### 1) **What are your thoughts from these quotes from Jerry Bridges on hungering and thirsting for righteousness?**

- a. “At the moment we trusted Christ as Savior, we were justified—declared by God to be righteous. You will never be more or less righteous before God any day of your life than you were the moment you trusted Christ as your Savior. This raises another question: Why should I hunger and thirst for that which I already have? The answer is that the more we grow and mature in the Christian life, the more sensitive we become to the sin and failure we see in our lives. It is not that we necessarily sin more but rather that we become more aware of and mourn over the sin that is already there. As that happens, we hunger more and more after the righteousness we have only in Christ.”

- b. “There is a second righteousness that we should hunger and thirst for: the experiential righteousness we are to pursue every day. God has inextricably linked together the righteousness we have in Christ and the righteousness we should pursue. He does not give one without the other. Therefore, whoever hungers and thirsts after the righteousness we have in Christ will also hunger and thirst to be righteous in his or her daily experience.” [See 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 3:10]
  
- c. “We are absolutely dependent on the Holy Spirit to work in us Himself and to enable us to work. We cannot make one inch of progress toward experiential righteousness without His divine enablement.”