



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.



Get the Picture

-Title: *"Poor In Spirit"*

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

-Date: Oct. 4, 2020

-Speaker: Pastor Steve

-Main Idea: In the Christian life, the way up is down. We flourish in God's kingdom when we are poor in spirit.



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:** What is a kingdom, and how would you describe the difference between the kingdom of the world and the kingdom of God/heaven?
- 3) **Discuss:** Being poor in spirit doesn't mean you view yourself as worthless. It means you have a healthy sense of unworthiness. What is the difference? ▶ Isa 6:5 ▶ Luke 5:8 ▶ 1John 1:9
- 4) **Discuss:** Why is there a natural inclination to think we have some standing before God, rather than to acknowledge our spiritually bankrupt condition? What things do we try to include in our spiritual net worth balance sheet?
- 5) **Discuss:** As believers in Christ – are we rich or poor? What would be the attitudes/actions of a "poor though-rich" person compared to a "rich-though-poor" person?

- 6) **Discuss:** Look up and discuss these passages which shed light on the distinction of having a character that is “poor in spirit”. What does each scripture say about developing a “poor in spirit” character? 2 Corinthians 6:10; 8:9 1 Timothy 6:17 James 2:5 Revelation 3:17-18

c) Apply

- 1) **Consider:** The poor in spirit will live a life focused on Christ.
- 2) **Respond:** How can we know if we are poor in spirit? Here are some characteristics of someone who is poor in spirit:
 - a. Always lowly in his own eyes. He does not exalt himself; he is not proud. Even though he may be considered insignificant by others, he sees it all as God’s will and rejoices that he is allowed to share in the sufferings of Christ. It becomes natural for him to go the way of the Lamb; humiliation becomes his nourishment, exaltation his reward. ([1 Peter 5:5](#); [1 Peter 4:13](#); [1 Peter 5:6](#).)
 - b. Loves to do all his work in the hidden and does not receive honor from men. ([Matthew 6:1-4](#).)
 - c. Loves to occupy the lowest place, not because he desires to be more esteemed, but because he thinks that this is precisely the place that it is suitable for him. ([Luke 14:7-11](#); [Philippians 2:3](#).)
 - d. Reserved in his conduct – neither aggressive nor demanding.
 - e. Loves to give up his advantages for the benefit of others. ([Philippians 2:4](#).)
 - f. Does not seek to be anything great, whether it is on an earthly or a spiritual level; his only desire is to do God’s will from moment to moment.
 - g. Does not seek to gain influence with people, yet his entire longing is that people might come under the influence of God. ([1 Corinthians 2:1-5](#); [1 Corinthians 9:19-23](#).)
 - h. Time is precious to him – he has none to waste; yet he is calm and is never led to do anything in haste. ([Ephesians 5:16-17](#).)
 - i. Sanctifies himself so that others, by his example, can sanctify themselves in truth. ([John 17:19](#); [1 Timothy 4:16](#).)
 - j. Denies himself so that his life may not be an offense to others in any way. ([Matthew 16:24](#).)
 - k. from Pray about and set aside a portion of your income to give toward the advancement of the gospel. When you start to purchase new clothing or something like that, go through your belongings and find something you can give to help others. (Aksel Smith)

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 be poor in spirit.



Going Deeper

- 1) **Thomas Watson said of poor in spirit:** Why does Christ begin here with poverty of spirit: Christ does it to show that poverty of spirit is the very basis and foundation of all the other graces which follow.”