

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

Luke is an 'orderly account' of the life of Jesus, and the way of life Jesus invites us into. As we SEE Him, so we see the implication of those words "come follow me." We will kick off 2024 from chapter 3 and work our way through this gospel account.



WHEN YOU MEET:

This discussion relates to the teaching from Sunday 12 May

SERMON: grlc.org.au/grlc-hub/

TESTIMONY TIME: Have one person in the group share what they've been learning about Jesus.

PRAY: Share praise points and pain points, and think about who else around us might need prayer (e.g. Israel and Palestine, Russia and Ukraine, Myanmar)

READ: Luke 6:20-26

DISCUSS: *NOTE: the sermon-specific questions are on the next page...*

1. What especially challenges or inspires you in this passage and why?
2. What does this passage reveal about being God's people in Australia today?
3. What does this passage say about finding and sustaining unity as God's people?
4. What does this passage reveal about identity or purpose as God's people?
5. How does this passage lead you to a greater reliance on the Holy Spirit?

PRAY: Take 10 minutes to work through Examen together. You may want to allow a few moments afterwards for people to share what happened. Find more information and audio files on the website:

<https://grlc.org.au/2020/10/08/daily-examen/>

MORE RESOURCES:

- Discipleship Resources Hub: grlc.org.au/discipleship-resources/
- Latest sermon: <https://grlc.org.au/grlc-hub/>



INTRO

Essentially, the good life is the me-centred life, while the blessed life is the Christ-centred life. Here are some short paraphrases from the Beatitudes (a combination of Luke 6 and Matthew 5) that distinguish the good life from the blessed life.

*The good life says "you don't need God - you're doing just great on your own."
The blessed life says "humble yourself and acknowledge your deep need for God."*

*The good life says "chase personal happiness at any cost."
The blessed life says "mourn over our own shortcomings and the injustices suffered by others and that we're only as good as the way we treat our most vulnerable."*

*The good life says "accumulating personal power makes you happy so go after it."
The blessed life says "servant-heartedness, gentleness and humility are everything."*

*The good life says "self-satisfaction and self-righteousness are the hallmarks of success."
The blessed life says "righteousness and satisfaction are about relationship with our creator."*

*The good life says "you deserve to vent, get angry and not forgive."
The blessed life says "show mercy to others as you've been shown mercy."*

*The good life says "it's all about looking good on the outside."
The blessed life says "the true state of your heart is what really matters."*

*The good life says "pursue personal peace and avoid conflict at all costs."
The blessed life says "be a channel of God's peace even when it isn't easy."*

*The good life says "follow the ways of the world and be accepted by all."
The blessed life says "follow Jesus, take up your cross daily and love those who oppose you for doing so."*

SERMON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

1. Choose 2-3 of these paraphrases and reflect on how you can follow the Jesus-centred way of living.
2. What practices can we implement to help us rely more on God in our everyday lives, including our work, families and friends?
3. Is there a circumstance in your life where you need to see the Kingdom of God at work? Reflect on how you can ask the Holy Spirit to guide you through this to show you how to surrender the circumstance to Jesus as you follow Him.
4. How does living 'the blessed life' help us build bridges into our communities beyond the church?
5. What does having a posture of 'the blessed life' rather than only 'the good life' look like for you? (while still having fun and enjoying life!)