



WEEK EIGHT: THE RECYCLE PRINCIPLE

CONNECT

This week we finish our series called HOPE Changes Everything! In the past eight weeks, we have looked at the principles Jesus gave us in the beatitudes that help us see the hope and freedom we find in God alone. In this final week, we look at the **Recycle Principle** that we can share with others how God has changed us!

- How are you at memorizing things? Have you tried to memorize any Bible verses? Do you think you could memorize all of the Beatitudes together as a group? Why or why not?
- Who was the "Good Kid" (Goody two-shoes) in your neighborhood growing up? How were they treated? How do you think that kid would be treated today? What about on the internet?

DISCOVER

Read Matthew 5:10

God Blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Read Matthew 5:3-10

³God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

⁴God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

⁶God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

⁷God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

⁹God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

¹⁰God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Read Psalm 78:7

So, each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands.

- What does persecution look like in our culture today? Do you think it stops people from doing good things, right things? If so, why?

- Is Jesus calling on us to live out one of the Beatitudes, or to live out all of them? How do you know?
- Which of the Beatitudes do you think is the most difficult for most people follow? What makes it so hard?
- What part do we play in making sure the next generation has hope?
- Why should having hope in God cause people to obey Him?

GROW

Big Idea: Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and my words

- Have you ever been persecuted, or ridiculed for doing the right thing? How did it make you feel?
- Which of the Beatitudes has had the most impact on your life, and in what way?
- Knowing heaven is waiting for you, does that make it any easier to share the Good News (the Gospel) with others? What does make it easier for you to share your faith with others?
- What do you do to make sure you don't forget God's miracles He has done in your life, and the hope He has given you? How do you share that with others?

NEXT STEPS

- If you struggle with any Hurts, Habits, or Hang-Ups, come try out Celebrate Recovery on Monday nights at 6:30, at the Goodyear Campus, 431 N Litchfield Rd, Goodyear, 85338.
www.palmvalley.org/celebraterrecovery
- Read **1 Peter 3:15**, "Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it." Follow the Testimony Guide to write your personal story of how you became a follower of Christ. Practice sharing your story with a partner in your Small Group.

MY PERSONAL STORY

What was my life like before fully surrendering to Christ?

- Whether you became a Christian as a child or later in life, what circumstances would an unbeliever identify with?
- What were your attitudes that an unbeliever would identify with?
- What was most important to you?
- What substitute for God did you use to find meaning in your life?

How I realized I needed Jesus

- What significant steps led up to your conversion?
- What needs, hurts, or problems made you dissatisfied with the way you were living without God?
- How did God get your attention?
- What motivated you?

How I committed my life to Jesus

- What specifically did you do to entrust your life to Jesus?
- Where did it happen?
- What did you say to God?
- What do you remember most? (Be specific!)

The difference He has made in my life

- What changes do you see God making in your life? (Give current examples within the last two weeks of how God is working in you and what He is saying to you.)
