

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of February 28, 2016

Matthew 5:1-3

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### **New International Version (NIV)**

*Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.*

*He said:*

<sup>3</sup> *“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

### **Connection Questions:**

1. Describe the resources Jesus used as he faced temptations in the wilderness.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Jesus, in delivering the Sermon on the Mount, gives a different approach to interpreting the Jewish law. How did this differ from traditional interpretation?

3. Do you think Jesus' new interpretation of the law was helpful to his listeners as they sought to do God's will in the choices they made? Why or why not?
  
4. Jesus says blessed or close to God are the "poor in spirit" which for the Hebrews meant being humble. What do you think Jesus means as he correlates humility with being close to God?
  
5. Do you think being humble is the wrong choice in making ethical decisions? Discuss when you think humility is appropriate and when it's not.
  
6. John Paton, a noted missionary, said, "To believe is to lean your whole weight on God, to do the best you can, the best you know, and then lean on God." How does this description apply to trying to do God's will?
  
7. Humble means courteously respectful. As we seek to do God's will, can we ever be too respectful in how we treat people? Can you be assertive about how you feel in a given situation and still be humble?
  
8. Do you think a lack of humility in our culture has created a partisan political culture?