

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of March 6, 2016

Matthew 5:4

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)

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Connection Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, taught by using general concepts instead of giving detailed instructions?
2. Jesus' listeners lived by a literal interpretation of the Jewish law. Discuss how you think Jesus' teachings in the Beatitudes challenged the way that the law was interpreted?
3. Blessed means near to God or close to the heart of God. What are some lessons you have learned about God going through tough times?

4. Grief is a powerful human emotion. Specialists in the field of grief work say that healing from grief takes work and it's a process. Do you agree with this statement, why or why not? How can our faith assist us in our grief work?

5. Discuss how you think grief can affect us in negative ways when we try to avoid grief when it happens.

6. Tears can be seen as a gift of God to help us come to terms with our losses in life. Some people view tears as a sign of weakness. Discuss how you view being vulnerable and allowing yourself to shed tears.

7. Comfort originally comes from the Latin word meaning "with strength." Describe a moment in your life when feeling God's presence gave you strength.

8. How is God's love similar to the love a parent has for a child? Discuss how this image compares to the image of God as judge. Do these two images have any similarities; if so, how?