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## Discussion Questions for Small Groups/Sunday School Class

1. **Could we say the verse this way, “*Blessed are the Humble for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven?*”** If you answer “Yes” - “Why?”
2. What is a Paradox? What do we mean when the Bible says one thing and it really seems like it goes against everything we have been taught?
3. Do you agree that this beatitude on the “Poor in Spirit” is radical? If so, Why?
4. Why do you think Jesus would call being “Poor in Spirit” would result in happiness?
5. Each of the Beatitudes begins with the word “Blessed.” It actually comes from the Greek word “makarios” meaning “happy, fortunate, and blissful.” Just as blessedness is a characteristic of God, it is a characteristic of mankind only when they share the nature of God through salvation. Let’s give our testimony here and share how we feel about this.
7. To be poor to the world means what?
8. In this instance what does it mean to be Poor in Spirit?
9. To be poor in spirit is to recognize that without Christ we can do nothing. It is to recognize that without Christ we are nothing. It is to come before God with empty hands, nothing to offer to God. It is to come with a humble heart, seeking only to receive from Him. This kind of person is described in Isaiah 66:2 where it reads, **“*To this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My Word.*”** Can you describe what this means in your own words?

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## Spiritual Application:

Have you seen your own poverty of spirit before od?

Have you come to the place in your life where you are tired of trying to do it on your own?

It is possible to try to follow God in your own strength. Have you done that? Have you been trying to follow God in your own wisdom?

This is not uncommon. But when we attempt to do that, we find out, some sooner, some later, that it just doesn’t work. We become exhausted because our strength is not sufficient. Our knowledge is not enough. In our attempt to figure God out, we have put Him in a little box, because that is the only kind of God who can be figured out. We must reduce God to our limited understanding. And while we might feel safe that way, we have limited God. We become those who “have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof.” Duty and responsibility drive our attempt to follow Jesus. Pretty soon we are spent. We become dry. We become exhausted. This is where we arrive by trying to follow Christ in our own strength. Are you there?

If you are there, that may not be a bad thing. You should have begun there. Poverty of spirit begins at the point where we see our insufficiency to do it on our own. When we are willing to acknowledge that God must fill us or we will forever remain empty, then we are in a place where God can meet us and change us. We are in a place where we can begin to receive from God. You see, without true poverty of spirit we can never enter into the Kingdom of God.

Do we understand that without being poor in spirit a person cannot even come to Jesus? This is the very first step. Indeed, it is a prerequisite.

**Here are the Blessings: It is the Kingdom of Heaven: Luke 12:32  
Colossians 1:12; I Peter 1:4; Ephesians 1:11; II Peter 1:4; II Cor 1:20**

**Those who declare themselves unworthy, God makes worthy.  
Those who declare themselves worthless, God makes valuable.  
Those who declare their sinfulness, God makes saints. Those who  
declare their spiritual poverty, God makes spiritually rich.**