



Imago Dei

Week 3

Group Leader Guide

RECAP

Pastor Keith emphasizes the importance of relying on God by highlighting core principles from the "Imago Dei" series. He explains that true fulfillment and righteousness come from recognizing our essential need for God, contrasting transactional religion with a relational connection to Him, using Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as the basis for the upside down Kingdom of God.

GETTING STARTED

What do you think 'poor in spirit' means? Have you had a time when you felt this way and how it impacted your relationship with God?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH

1. When Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," what do you think it means in our daily lives? How can we cultivate this position of the heart?
2. Pastor Keith discusses the "if/then" equations commonly found in religion versus the relational aspect Jesus highlighted. What are some ways we make our walk with God transaction? What are practical ways we can relate with God in a personal way?
3. Reflecting on the idea that "neediness is the currency of heaven," can you share a moment when you felt your need for God most deeply? How did it impact your relationship with Him?
4. In Isaiah 55, God invites everyone who thirsts to come to Him. What could it look like to come to God with our thirst? What hesitations might keep you from coming to God this way?
5. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount starts with teachings that go against cultural norms (e.g., "Blessed are those who mourn"). How do this message challenge the way we generally view success and happiness?
6. What are some practical steps you can take to prioritize your relationship with God in your daily routine?
7. Pastor Keith mentions that sometimes God doesn't give us what we ask for because He has something better planned. Can you think of a time when this happened in your life? How did it change your perspective on prayer and trust in God?

PRAYER

Father God, we come to You acknowledging our need for You. Thank You for reminding us that true fulfillment comes not from our own efforts, but from a deep, abiding relationship with You. Help us to embrace our neediness as a pathway to experience Your rich blessings. May we recognize that being poor in spirit and mourning bring us closer to Your heart. Pour out Your Spirit on us, that we may hunger and thirst for Your righteousness. Guide us to let go of the things that do not satisfy and instead, turn our hearts fully towards You. Teach us to walk humbly, rely on Your wisdom, and trust in Your provision. As we go from here, may we continually seek You, knowing that with You, we find life, peace, and joy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.