



# message study guide

for use with a life group or on your own

## OPENER

As we begin a new year, let us reflect on what changes we hope to see in our life and what we hope to accomplish with God's help.

## DIGGING DEEPER INTO SCRIPTURE

### Read Matthew 5:1-26

In the beatitudes (verses 3-12), Jesus speaks a blessing, a description of those being blessed and an explanation for the blessing.

1. What does "poor in spirit" mean in verse 3? Is there an action associated with this characteristic or is this an attitude?
2. What is the meaning of "meek" in verse 5?
3. How will those in verse 6 be filled? How will it be

apparent to the observer?

4. Does the persecution in verse 10 differ from that in verse 11? If so how? What behavior best describes each of these individuals?
5. In verses 13-16, Jesus uses the metaphors of salt and light. For what do they stand? Do they represent attitudes or actions or both, towards what or who?
6. In what ways does Christ fulfill the Law of the prophets?

## LIVE IT! APPLY IT!

1. What is it that distinguishes the church from other agencies of help to society?
2. What are some of the attitudes that have changed in you as you have deepened your relationship with Jesus?
3. What are some behaviors that have changed since you have decided to live like the King's kid?
4. In this year, how will your generosity grow?

## FOR THE JOURNEY

Begin this year by verbalizing how you see Jesus in each of the members of your small group or your family. Pray for each one and ask God to give each of you boldness to impact your community for Him, and a generosity of spirit and means.

### FOCUS VERSE

#### MATTHEW 5:16

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

### FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

**live, Kingdom, have, are**