

Fully Alive - experiencing the Good Life *according to Jesus*

study #3

Reflecting on Sunday's Teaching ::

As we think back to Sunday's teaching, what stands out for you?

- *Was there something that hit home, challenged, or encouraged you?*
- *What questions are you left with and what are you doing with them?*

(By sharing your thoughts out loud and with others, you can deepen what you've learned.)

Read the Text :: Matthew 5:1-12

If possible, read the text aloud from a few different translations.

Digging In ::

- In her teaching, Janet shared that she had grown up being taught that these were attitudes to try to be, but in recent years, she's come to view them as promises – as a vision of what God does in us as we follow Jesus and live in His kingdom.
 - Share your own previous experience and understanding of the Beatitudes, and if and how your view of the Beatitudes has changed.
 - Reflect together on how Janet's reframing of the Beatitudes as signs of God's work in us impacts our vision and experience of these verses.
- Take some time to walk through all 8 Beatitudes – what you learned and know about each – and how this relates to your life and life with God... Stop and pray along the way, as it seems fitting.
- In this season of your life,
 - Which of the Beatitudes is **a word of grace** to you, that you need to hear? Share.
 - Which of the Beatitudes is **an invitation** that you need? Share.
- Are there any Beatitudes that seem notable lacking in the life of the Christian community these days? Why do you say this, and what impact might this have on the life and witness of the Church?
- Think about our life together as a church, or as a small community of friends: Is there one beatitude that God might want to grow in **us**, or that **we'd** long to grow in together?
 - What could we do – individually and together – to open ourselves up to this work of God in us?

**PRAY together :: *for God's work in each of us
and in the life of our church.***