The Best Kept Secrets

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 17, 2016 • Pastor Scott Trickett

"And when you pray, you must not pray like the hypocrites. For they love to stand up in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."
Matthew 6:5-6

	Yes	No
Do you like me? Check one:	____	____

I. God hates hypocrisy:

- Jesus lays 'em naked....maybe us too?

II. The Secret God: Psalm 139

- God knows all of our secrets...all of them...really?

III. Hide in Christ

- Come into the room and shut the door....let's talk. :)

	Yes	No
Do you like me? Check one:	____	____

GROWTH GROUP GUIDE • WEEK 2: MATTHEW 6:5-8

SERMON REFLECTION

What were your thoughts on Sunday's message? Discuss with your group questions you had, things that stood out to you, and impressions you had.

DISCUSSION

Jesus gave the Beatitudes as the framework from which all of the Sermon on the Mount can be understood. While most of the Sermon on the Mount deals with disobedience and hypocrisy, the Beatitudes show what obedience and integrity look like. The rest of the Sermon exposes the sin in our heats; the Beatitudes reveal the character of Jesus.

How is the description of those blessed in the kingdom different from Jesus' description of hypocrites? How do hypocrites believe they are blessed?

The poor in spirit are blessed, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Those who mourn are blessed, for they will be comforted.

The gentle are blessed, for they will inherit the earth.

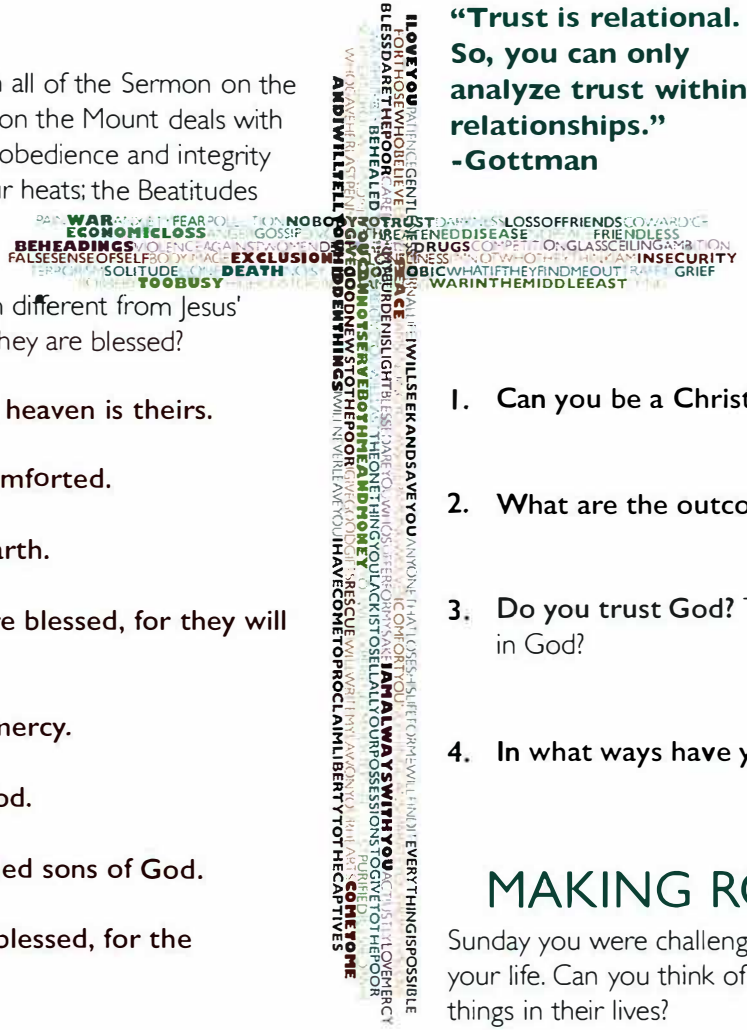
Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are blessed, for they will be filled.

The merciful are blessed, for they will be shown mercy.

The pure in heart are blessed, for they will see God.

The peacemakers are blessed, for they will be called sons of God.

Those who are persecuted for righteousness are blessed, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.



Living like Jesus takes community! Obedience to Christ requires that we do it in the context of relationships. Because of that, we are going to look at various elements of INTENTIONAL GOSPEL RELATIONSHIPS.

MEASURING TRUST

"Trust is relational. So, you can only analyze trust within relationships." -Gottman

Will you be there for me when I am:
...sad?
...angry?
...happy?
...upset?
...excited?
...disappointed?
...will I come first for you?

-Gottman, *What Makes Love Last*

DISCUSSION

1. **Can you be a Christian and not feel relational trust with God?**

2. **What are the outcomes in trusting God?**

3. **Do you trust God?** This is not a cognitive question. Rather, do you *feel* trust in God?

4. **In what ways have you trusted in God today?**

MAKING ROOM TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Sunday you were challenged to think about what you need the Gospel for in your life. Can you think of people in your life who need the Gospel to do similar things in their lives?