

## **PONDER**

Read and meditate on Matthew 5:3-12. What are some ways that you or others that you know embody these traits of those that are “blessed”? What are some fears that you have that hold you back from living as those who are merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, or those who are persecuted? What are some things that you need to sacrifice in order to live like this person that Jesus calls “blessed”?

Read and meditate on Matthew 5:13-16. Consider what it means to live like salt and light in a world that is dark and decaying. What are some practical ways that you can apply these truths to your life?

## **PRAY**

Pray through the Beatitudes this morning. Ask the Lord to show you ways that you are not living like one who is “blessed.” Confess these things to Him, and ask that He would work to make you more like Him.

Pray for the people who you come into contact with on a regular basis at school, on your sports teams, or in your family. Pray that you would live in such a way that your light would shine before them so that they would see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

## **PRACTICE**

Write down each trait found in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12). Write down what you think each one means, how you can apply these to your life, and any questions that you have about these pursuits. Discuss these things in your Community Group.

Read Matthew 5:13-16. Do you live to “glorify your Father who is in heaven”? Write down a list of things that distract you from living this way, and consider how you can actively take steps to remove these barriers from your life so that you can live as a light for the gospel.