



## Revolution: Problem | November 6, 2019

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

Have you ever had a problem you just can't solve? You know, like when you take your car to the mechanic and they can't fix it? Or you call customer service and they can't quite troubleshoot it? Read below to hear more.

#### Key Verses

##### Matthew 5:1-12 (NIV)

*"Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.'*"

#### Discussion

We've all had problems that we just can't seem to solve. Think about the last time you took your car to a mechanic and they couldn't really get to the bottom of the issue. Or the last time you called customer service, explained what was going on, and the only solution they could offer you was to unplug it and plug it back in. We've all been there. It can be super frustrating, especially when it's an issue that impacts your everyday life and seems like it should be easy to fix.

1. When was the last time you had a problem you just couldn't quite solve? What was it?
2. Why do you think these types of problems are so frustrating?

Sometimes, we treat our faith the same way we try to troubleshoot issues with our car or technology. But that isn't really the way it's supposed to work. If we simply "do more" or "do less" of something to try to make our faith better, we miss the big picture and the entire point of why Jesus came. The truth is, Jesus came to Earth to spend time with us, not to fix our actions, but to target and repair the real problem – our separation from the God of the universe. Jesus wants us to know our father, and to have a real relationship with him, not simply to fix our actions. This was and still is revolutionary.

3. Have you ever treated your faith this way – focusing on and trying to diagnose and fix certain actions?
4. Why do you think we get so distracted from the real problem (separation from God) and choose to focus on our actions and the actions of others?

In Matthew 5:1-12, we read part of Jesus' sermon on the mount. And in these specific verses, we read all the ways in which we can exhibit and display the character of God. At that time, if you were doing many of the things Jesus listed, it would have meant you were doing something "wrong" – that you weren't part of the "in" crowd. As he goes on in the chapter, he does list patterns of behavior that could make us feel like we are far from God. But Jesus' main message is that because of him, we get the privilege of having a relationship with God the father *just as we are*.

5. Reading through Matthew 5:1-12, is there something that sticks out to you that is seemingly opposed to what culture would applaud or approve of?
6. When was the first time you realized that because of Jesus, God wants a relationship with you *just as you are*? How did it change the way you thought about Jesus, God and his character?

#### What's Next?

In this series, we are going to talk about the revolutionary life that Jesus lived. Additionally, we are going to consider how we can best walk in his footsteps. And here's a spoiler – it's not about picking out the details of how we or others live and simply fixing our actions. When Jesus showed up, some of his followers wanted a political leader, religious upheaval, and a war hero. That's what they thought revolution was. But Jesus came to do something else – revolutionary in its own right, but not at all what some people thought he came to do. He came to fix the real problem – our separation from God – not all the little things that we do/don't do.

This week, as you live out and engage your faith, think about how you might be part of Jesus' revolution. Consider what Jesus did. How might you tell people about his life, and that the only thing standing in the way of a relationship with God the father is simply choosing to follow Jesus? Identify one person you'd like to share this news with this week.