

Our midweek
growth groups

are a big part of our church life together. They are, as the name suggests, about growing! We grow in...



- **our understanding of God's Word**

Our studies follow the Sunday sermons, and there's lots of room for interaction, discussion and questions.

- **our love for God**

Meeting together is truly life-changing as God works powerfully in us by His Spirit through His Word.

- **our love for God's family**

They're a great place to build real, encouraging friendships, while providing opportunities to practically serve, care and pray for one another.

- **our love for God's world**

Our groups are a place where we can pray and partner with one another in God's mission to the world.

in His love & grace,

GOOD. DIFFERENT.

Having recently begun his public ministry (v12-17) Jesus has called his first disciples (4:18-22) and attracted great attention through his authoritative teaching and powerful miracles (Matt 4:23-25). The Kingdom of Heaven is near and here's a foretaste. As the crowds flock to him to hear and see more, Jesus goes up a mountain and begins to teach what it means to be His disciples (5:1-2).

The block of teaching known as the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) is a discourse on discipleship. Although the crowds are listening this teaching is addressed primarily to those who have responded to the kingdom, his disciples. Jesus is teaching his followers, then and now what life in the kingdom is really about.

“Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the strange world and wisdom of Jesus. Welcome to Jesus’ narrow-gate theology, teaching that separates the “crowds” who want health and wealth in the here and now and the “disciples” who are willing to deny themselves, pick up their crosses, and follow Jesus”

- Douglas Sean O'Donnell

Jesus is preaching a Christian counter-culture; what we have called for this study, '*Good.Different.*'



**BLESSED ARE THE
POOR IN SPIRIT**

Matthew 5:2



Study 1

MATTHEW 5:1-10

How might an article in the Courier Mail describe the blessed life?

Read 4:17-5:1

What's happening in Galilee?

Why are there crowds flocking to Jesus?

What might these crowds be thinking about the nature of blessing in the kingdom?

Read 5:2-10

Share what you notice about these eight promises of blessing (v3-10).

Take turns in describing one thing from this passage that Jesus teaches his disciples about living as blessed in this world?

How are you being challenged from this passage to live as a follower of Jesus?

How would you describe 'blessed' according to what you've learned from this passage?

What is '*Good.Different.*' about being a follower of Jesus in this world?