

# We're better together

## FIRST ORLANDO GROUPS

02-01-26

Pastor Trey Hildebrant

Week 1

*Divided*

MAIN TEXT:

*Matthew 5-7*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Belong: (Ice Breaker):** What is your favorite sports team? Why are they your favorite? Have you ever been to a game? What was the best part of the event?

**Believe:**

*Leader's Note: In this new series called "Divided" we are going to spend two weeks learning from the words of Jesus on how to handle division. Today our theme is "How do we handle HURT?" Next week, how to deal with people that we don't like. Our hope during this series is that God guides us to becoming the HEALTHIER people with HEALTHIER relationship.*

**The Beatitudes.** *The word "beatitude" refers to the one of the early translations of the word "Blessed" which is used here repeatedly. Another good translation for the word blessed here is "happy." So, everywhere we see the word blessed, we could read it as "happy". These statements are Jesus first guidance on the what the Kingdom of Heaven would look like on earth.*

**Read Matthew 5:1-12**

- As you listen to these verses what stands out to you? How do you think this teaching sounded to the crowd gathered to listen? (think through the groups present - disciples, religious leaders, and regular people). How would their responses have been different?
- How would you describe what it means to be "Poor in Spirit"? (try reading Matthew 5:3 in a different translations like the New Living Translation or The Message to give understanding if the group is struggling with defining this phrase).
- How have you seen being "Poor in Spirit" lived out in real life? Share that story.
- Do you think being "Poor in Spirit" is celebrated today? Why or why not?

*Leader's Notes: Feel free to talk about other beatitudes here that stand out to your group. Use the same questions above for similar conversations.)*

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01-25-2026

Pastor Trey Hildebrant

Week 1

*Divided*

MAIN TEXT:

*Matthew 5-7*

**Believe:**

**Read: Matthew 5:43-46**

- As you listen to this passage, what stands out to you?
- How does this passage (which is given later in the Sermon on the Mount) support the teaching of the Beatitudes?
- Do you think it is humanly possible to love your enemies? Why does Jesus ask his followers to do this? How can we do it?
- Have you ever prayed for someone who has hurt you? Did God change your heart towards them? How long did it take?

*Leader's Notes: "Forgiveness does NOT necessarily mean reconciliation. We may forgive someone but that doesn't mean that person immediately gets back into our lives. Because forgive doesn't equal forget. We don't forget what has happened to us, we just choose to cover that pain with the grace of God. Forgiveness does NOT minimize the offense or remove consequences. "*  
*Pastor Trey*

- How does Jesus demonstrate loving your enemies? (see Luke 23:34)
- Why is this the ultimate example of forgiveness?

**Become:**

**Read: Ephesians 4:31-32**

- According to Paul, what does forgiveness look like? What do we need to let go of? What do we need to do instead?
- Which do you think is harder to do in everyday life? What makes our forgiveness of others possible?
- What should we keep in the forefront of our mind?

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### Closing:

- Take some time in quiet prayer to think about living a life that is marked by humility and forgiveness.
- As a leader - offer to pray for the group
- If you are not sure what to pray, take Matthew 5:1-12 and turn it into a prayer saying something like “Lord, help us by your strength to be poor in spirit...” etc.

*Leader's Note: 2/8/26 - Be sure to invite your group to participate in Super Bowl Sunday by having a “tailgate party” in class with your favorite foods. Ask everyone to wear their favorite team jersey next week. It's going to be a fun weekend to invite friends!*