

Gathering Guide

for Communities and Friends

Celebrate Recovery Sunday

2/24/2019

Where We Are In The Bible

This week we will be considering the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:3-10 that serve as the 8 Principles of Celebrate Recovery.

Lean In

- In our Sunday worship services we heard testimonies of how God has been transforming lives through the ministry of Celebrate Recovery. What stood out to you about any particular testimony you heard?
- How is God working right now to transform you? If you are able, it would be great to share this with the group.

The Big Idea

You've probably heard the expression "time heals all wounds". However, the truth is that time often makes things worse. Wounds that are left untended fester and spread infection throughout your entire body. Time only extends the pain if the problem isn't dealt with. But do not despair! The Holy Spirit helps us overcome through the Word of God and the encouragement of fellow believers as we deal together with our hurts, habits, and hang-ups.

Where To?

Below are the 8 Principles of Celebrate Recovery. Review each principle along with the applicable passage from God's Word and discuss how it applies to the healing process from our hurts, habits, and hang-ups. For each principle you may want to ask the following questions: 1.) How difficult would this be to apply in my life? Why? 2.) What might be the consequences of applying this principle? What might be the benefits?

1. Realize I'm not God; I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable. *"Happy are those who know that they are spiritually poor."* Matthew 5:3
2. Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him and that He has the power to help me recover. *"Happy are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."* Matthew 5:4
3. Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control. *"Happy are the meek."* Matthew 5:5
4. Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust. *"Happy are the pure in heart."* Matthew 5:8
5. Voluntarily submit to any and all changes God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects. *"Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires"* Matthew 5:6
6. Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others when possible, except when to do so would harm them or others. *"Happy are the merciful."* Matthew 5:7; *"Happy are the peacemakers"* Matthew 5:9
7. Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will. *"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."* Matthew 5:8
8. Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others, both by my example and my words. *"Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires."* Matthew 5:10

Prayer Focus

Lord, thank you for your love that reaches to us in the middle of our life struggles. Your grace and mercy overwhelm us! And thank you for our precious brothers and sisters in Christ who walk with us even in the darkest times. Help us not only to be overcomers through Christ Jesus, but to help others to be overcomers as well. Amen

