Session 2: Matthew 5:4	
SESSION GOALS	
Every session has a point—what each participant should	
walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and	
doing.	
Main Idea: God draws near to comfort us when we	
mourn and enables us to comfort others in their times of need.	
or need.	
Head Change: To know that God will meet our	
mourning with kindness and comfort.	
<b>Heart Change:</b> To feel free to grieve our sin and the	
brokenness of the world without shame.	
1:6. Chamma. To take any swint divertible Cod on that	
<b>Life Change:</b> To take our grief directly to God so that we can be comforted by him.	
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<u>OPEN</u>	
What do you typically do when you are feeling	
down? What helps you get through a tough day?	
There's nothing wrong with taking a nap or watching	
TV when we feel overwhelmed, but our simple coping	
strategies can become lifestyles of avoidance. We live in a culture that doesn't like the idea of sadness. We often	
seek to avoid the pain of mourning by suppressing our	
grief or distracting ourselves from our feelings. The idea	
of embracing our sadness is unusual, even unwanted.	
In this session, we'll see that mourning is not something	
to avoid, but a pathway to blessing. And when we	
mourn, we can be sure that will be comforted by God himself.	
TillTiSell.	
READ	
Read Matthew 5:1–12.	
<b>Note</b> : Because you'll be reading this passage weekly for the remainder of this series, consider making your study	
the remainder of this series, consider making your study	

of the Beatitudes an occasion to memorize these verses of Scripture.	
WATCH	
Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Matt Chandler's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.	
Why is it important to know the Beatitudes highlight eight characteristics of the same person?	
What are the three reasons mourning is a sign of the kingdom?	
How does mourning help us develop compassion?	
Show Session 2: <i>Matthew 5:4</i> (13 minutes).	
DISCUSS	
Matt opened this session saying that Jesus didn't just show up looking for the "blessed" people. Instead, Jesus shapes us ordinary people into these sorts of people. How is the idea that Jesus is looking for "blessed" people different from the idea that he shapes us into "blessed" people? Why is it good news that Jesus shapes us into the kinds of people described in the Beatitudes?	
Why do you think the second Beatitude is so significant for us today?	
We all regularly encounter pain and heartbreak because we live in a world fractured by sin. To protect ourselves from pain, grief, and sadness we develop coping mechanisms. But coping can prevent us from dealing with reality and distract us from our emotions. What are some of the coping mechanisms you have used to protect yourself? In what ways have your coping mechanisms been ineffective long-term solutions?	
One of the dangers of running to our coping mechanisms instead of grieving is that we end up	

Instead of anger, how does the second Beatitude	
cause us to respond to the brokenness of the world?	
Kingdom mourning has an outward movement to it. We	
first mourn our sin, then mourn the sin and brokenness	
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around us. As God comforts us through our sadness, he	
develops compassion in us so that we can go out and	
be a comfort to others. Have you ever considered	
that godly mourning creates compassion? In what	
way does mourning with others fulfill Jesus's	
promise that those who mourn "will be comforted"?	
To what extent do you prioritize comforting others	
as a response to the brokenness of the world?	
as a response to the brokenness of the world:	
[Note: For further study on comforting others who are	
mourning, see <b>Go Deeper Section 2</b> at the end of this	
session.]	
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It is not good to grieve in isolation. We must be willing	
to be comforted by the people God puts in our lives to	
not only participate in the act of comforting others but	
to be a recipient of that comfort ourselves. <b>What steps</b>	
can you take today to welcome others into the	
sadness, lament, and mourning that you have	
experienced so that you can be comforted by them?	
LAST WORD	
In our culture, mourning is not seen as something to	
embrace. Instead, it is viewed as something to distance	
ourselves from or avoid altogether. But when we	
mourn, by Jesus's own assurance, we can be certain that	
we will be comforted.	
God often takes us through mourning, not around it.	
You don't have to grieve alone. God himself wants you	
to come to him so that he can comfort you. He has	
given you a community to support and mourn with you.	
And, through mourning, we grow in compassion. As he	
said, "Blessed are those who mourn," for in our	
mourning there is comfort.	
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GO DEEPER	
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The Go Deeper section has two potential functions. It	
can supplement your small group discussion by	
providing extra discussion material. We've highlighted a	
place where the following segment could fit in the	
Discuss section of the study guide.	
biscuss section of the study guide.	
But you can also use this section as a short devotional	
to carry you through the week until your next group	
meeting. Consider reading this section to deepen your	
study of the Beatitudes.	
1. Conviction Is not Condemnation	
The continuous describes in the Destinates	
The mourning Jesus describes in the Beatitudes	
includes our mourning over personal sin. Often, though,	
the conviction that prompts us to mourn over personal	
sin can be seen as God's condemnation rather than	
God's kindness. The Scriptures, and Jesus himself, paint	
a different picture for us.	
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D 11 1 246 40	
Read John 3:16–18.	
Why did God send Jesus into the world? What does	
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Jesus expressly say God did not send him into the	
world to do? In what ways do we sometimes think	
of his mission backward, assuming he came to	
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condemn?	
While John 3:16 is among the most well-known	
passages in the Bible, the following verses are often	
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overlooked. In this passage, Jesus insists that God sent	
him to save the world, not condemn it. Have you ever	
experienced conviction that felt like condemnation?	
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What was that season like? How long did it last or is	
it still ongoing?	
In what ways might John 3:16–18 change the way	
we interpret the feeling of conviction?	
When we experience the "conviction of sin" we are	
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made aware of our wrongdoing so that we might	
change. But if we forget Jesus's words in John 3:16–18,	
we may mistake our conviction for condemnation,	
thinking that our actions disqualify us from God's love	
amining that our actions disquality as Holli dod's love	

and grace. How might you respond differently to conviction if you thought of it more as an opportunity for growth rather than a condemnation?	
Read Romans 8:1.	
If you are "in Christ Jesus" what assurance does this passage give to you today?	
When we experience conviction, it is not wrong to remember the consequences of sin. But we must remember the penalty for our sin has been laid on Jesus. Because we believe in him, we are recipients of forgiveness and mercy. Paul's glorious claim in Romans 8:1 should change the way we understand and respond to conviction. In what ways does knowing that you aren't condemned by God encourage you to confess your sin to God? In what way does it encourage you to bring your sin and mourning to other Christians?	
Even though we are forgiven, we will continue to sin. But we should not be troubled by the conviction we experience as a result of our sin. In fact, our ongoing conviction is a sure sign that God's Spirit lives in us and is at work in our lives. In what ways has God used conviction to show that he is at work in your life?	
What could you do to be open to God's conviction in the future? What would it look like to respond to that feeling in a God-honoring way when you feel it next?	
2. Comforting Those Who Mourn	
Mourning is an inescapable reality. In the world today, our headlines are littered with tragedy and heartbreak, and many around us find themselves mourning and in need of comfort. We have an opportunity to comfort them, but many times the ways we try to comfort people encourage them to ignore their grief. Who are the people God has used to comfort you? In what specific ways did they minister to you and give you comfort?	

So how do we comfort people in pain while helping —	
them mourn appropriately? Read 2 Corinthians 1:3–4.	
There are three parts to this passage, each of which can help us think through what it means to offer comfort to	
those who are mourning. First, God comforts us in all	
our affliction. What "afflictions" have you	
experienced in the past? How did God comfort you	
in all those afflictions? What would it look like to	
point mourners to God's comfort first and	
foremost?	
Second, God tells us why he comforts us: so that we	
may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of	
affliction. How do you think experiencing affliction helps us to comfort others? How has receiving God's	
comfort prepared you to comfort others?	
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Finally, we should comfort others in the same way God,	
the Father of mercies, comforts us. We have all	
experienced circumstances that have caused us to	
mourn. But as often as we've been afflicted, we have	
also been comforted by God. Who around you needs	
to be comforted? In what tangible ways can you	
show mercy or compassion to that person?	
If you do not know someone who is struggling and	
needs comfort, pray for an opportunity to offer tangible	
comfort. Think of the ways you have been supported by	
others when you were mourning—what comforted you	
and some actions that may not have been as helpful as	
intended. What sorts of things can you be prepared	
to do to help you be compassionate, merciful, and	
comforting whenever people need you to show them God's comfort?	
and a common to	

RightNow Presents The Beatitudes STUDY GUIDE

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