






 <p>SERIES & TITLE</p>	<p>JESUS MANIFESTO: Blessed are the Poor in Spirit</p>
 <p>BIG IDEA</p>	<p>The “Good Life” comes to those who are powerless in spirit.</p>
 <p>ICE BREAKER</p>	<p>Share your idea of "the good life". What would your dream life look like - where you live, what you do for work, your family situation, hobbies, etc.?</p>
 <p>MAIN POINTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jesus teaches in the Beatitudes that true blessing and "the good life" comes from being "poor in spirit" - realizing our utter dependence on God rather than self-reliance. ● Trying to control outcomes ourselves leads to frustration, while letting go and trusting God leads to blessing. ● We must have an attitude of openness ("palms up") to receive God's best for our lives, rather than striving in our own power ("clenched fists"). ● Jesus' grace through the gospel enables us to let go of self-reliance and receive the abundant life he offers.
 <p>DISCUSS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is it so tempting to want to be "in control" and self-reliant rather than God-reliant? What drives this attitude? 2. Share a time when you tried to control a situation or outcome, but had to ultimately let go. What was that process like? 3. What are some areas of your life where you are holding on tightly and striving in your own power? What would it look like to surrender control to God? 4. How can actively receiving and resting in God's grace help us live with "open hands" before Him? 5. What is one step you can take this week to humble yourself and depend more fully on God in a particular situation? 6. How can we encourage one another to live as "poor in spirit" and receive the abundant life Jesus offers?
 <p>NEXT STEP</p>	<p>Identify one relationship, circumstance or decision where you have been grasping for control. Make a conscious choice to let go and trust God, taking practical steps to stop striving and wait for His leading.</p>
 <p>SCRIPTURE</p>	<p>Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p> <p>Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.</p>
 <p>NEXT WEEK SNEAK</p>	<p>Join us next week as we continue our summer series: JESUS MANIFESTO! Pastor Shan will be teaching this summer - you're not going to want to miss this. Tune in in-person or online at CentralAZ.com/messages!</p>

Questions or Feedback? Email Groups@CentralAZ.com