The Beatitudes Series 1  
Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit  
November 22, 2013

I. WELCOME, 15 mins.  
Prepare a couple simple, fun and delightful icebreakers to help your group warm up. Help your cell group members to put aside their busy and tiresome life to prepare their hearts to come before God.

II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.  
Prayerfully choose a few songs to lead the cell group members to worship God. The worship leader would encourage members to come before the throne of God to seek God’s face, and lead them into God’s presence. During this time, the cell group leader will also lead the group to pray aloud for the following prayer items:

A. MISSION ORGANIZATION: ____________, and their needs are: ____________  
(Please contact the church if you don’t know the needs of the mission organization.)

B. CHURCH MINISTRY:  
- 11/24 Thanksgiving Family Luncheon  
- 11/28 Thanksgiving Day  
- 12/1 & 12/8 Baptism Class  
- 12/15 Baptism  
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service.

C. New comer: ________________ Confirm new comers’ name before the meeting.  
For sick members, friends or relatives: ________________ Please discuss how you may show your care to them.

III. WORD, 45 mins. By sharing God’s word, the group may discuss how to apply it to their daily life.

A. Sharing message from last Sunday’s sermon: (It would be helpful if you could listen on-line once again)  
1. What is the key message from last Sunday sermon? How did God speak to you through the message?  
2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

B. Topic of the week: Blessed are the poor in spirit  
Verses: Matthew 5:3 – Please take turns to read God’s words.  
Memorizing Verses: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3 NIV)

1. Ice-breaking (for reference only)  
Pick a song all the cell members are familiar with and sing. Pass a pen from one to another. When the leader shouts “stop”, the person holding the pen will have to introduce him/herself to the group (such as name, profession, hobby, the most influential family member, life dream, etc.) Then continue the game until everyone has a chance to introduce him/herself.

2. Self-assessment: Please assess your attitudes toward others and your personality (please choose anything that applies)  
( ) Picky  ( ) Easy-going  ( ) Aggressive  ( ) Humble  
( ) Argumentative  ( ) Peace-making  ( ) Polite  
( ) Follow Doctrine of Men  ( ) Arrogant  ( ) Tolerant  
( ) Self-centered  ( ) Poor in spirit  
What kind of impact does this personality of yours bring to your work, your family and your inter-personal relationships?

3. A true story  
A. When McDonald tried to enter the Taiwan market, it had to recruit a group of managers. However, many excellent young people failed to get the job due to the tough requirement. In fact the first step of employee training in McDonald is to clean the restroom. Eventually Mr. XX rose to the top, because even though he was already well-known in the industry before he joined McDonald, he was still willing to start with the most humbling job.  
B. Please share the example of humble people you have met this week.
4. Definition of being poor in spirit
   Being poor in spirit, is to humble oneself and acknowledge one’s weakness and lacking.

5. An example from the Bible
   Luke 18:9-14
   9. To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:
   10. “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.
   11. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector.
   12. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’
   13. “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’
   14. “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

   The self-righteous Pharisee arrogantly boasted his benevolence, but looked down on the tax collector, thus keeping himself from the God. On the other hand, the tax collector came to the temple to confess his sins and begged for mercy, thus getting the praise. God is very willing to bless the poor in spirit and the hungry for him. He will also bless this kind of people with the Holy Spirit. (Luke 11:13)

   In past conferences, we have also witnessed that many brothers and sisters were so poor in spirit and hungry for God, that they were greatly filled with the Holy Spirit. I believe God will do great works in your life, your family, your cell group, your church, and in the whole world.

Discussion:
1. “For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” What does this sentence tell you?
2. How is being poor in spirit related to being filled with the Holy Spirit? How did God use the Glocal Conference to change your life?
3. How can you keep being poor in spirit, so as to be able to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and follow His lead?

Prayer:
Dear Jesus, we praise you and thank you for your example of humility. You gave up the heavenly glory, became flesh and came to this world to save us, completely obedient to Abba Father’s will. Due to your humility and obedience, we are able to receive complete salvation and get reconciled with Abba Father. Dear Lord, make us humble and follow your example. Help us treat others with humility, and be poor in spirit when we seek your mercy. Bless us. Thank you for your grace. We pray in Jesus’ precious name. Amen!

IV. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.
   Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other’s needs.
   Next week: Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn
   [This study material is based on “Heavenly Blessing” published by Bread of Life Christian Church in Taipei]