



Community Group Discussion

The following questions pertain to teaching at Hillside Church on Sunday September 25, 2011

Title: *“Happy in the sad”*

Text: Matthew 5:3

1. One of the ways this verse can be interpreted is at face value, as God’s care or comfort for people who suffer deep loss (of a loved one or something they cherish). What is your experience of “mourning” or grief? What was its effect?
2. In what form(s) does God’s comfort come to those who mourn?
3. In Romans 5:3-5 the apostle Paul suggests we can “rejoice in our sufferings” because of what it produces in us. What is your experience of being grown or stretched through suffering?
4. Another way this verse has been interpreted is the sense of grief a person feels at the realization of their sinful state before God. What did James 4:8-10 have in mind in this regard?
5. Words like “sinful” or “sinner” or “sinful” are not popular in our culture. How do you respond to these words? What images does it conjure up for you, or for others in your network of friends?
6. How would you define the concept of “sin” to someone who wasn’t a Christian?
7. Read 1 John 1:9. What does this mean to you? How do we put this into practice? How can we keep short accounts with God without treating it lightly?
8. What will you do differently this coming week in response to considering this passage(s) of Scripture?