

## I Value . . .

What's essential in your life? What do you value? For each statement, circle a number to rank its value for you.

### ***A good education***

Not So Much				Somewhat				A Lot	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

### ***Being popular***

Not So Much				Somewhat				A Lot	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

### ***My family***

Not So Much				Somewhat				A Lot	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

### ***Having lots of friends***

Not So Much				Somewhat				A Lot	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

### ***Being part of the right crowd***

Not So Much				Somewhat				A Lot	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

### ***Having one or two best friends***

Not So Much				Somewhat				A Lot	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

### ***Taking time to help others***

Not So Much				Somewhat				A Lot	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

### ***Being in the spotlight***

Not So Much				Somewhat				A Lot	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

***Being part of a faith community***

Not So Much

Somewhat

A Lot

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

***Looking good***

Not So Much

Somewhat

A Lot

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

***Owning the latest electronic gear***

Not So Much

Somewhat

A Lot

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

***Having plenty of money***

Not So Much

Somewhat

A Lot

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

***Family traditions***

Not So Much

Somewhat

A Lot

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- What other values do many people your age have?

- What other values do *you* have? Think about . . .
  - what you plan and dream about and plan for;
  - what you really care about;
  - what you make—or will make—sacrifices for.

## The Beatitudes

### ***Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.***

- In what way(s) are you “poor” and needy?
- Do you ask God to help supply your need(s)? Why or why not?
- Do you believe God *will* supply your need(s)? Why or why not?
- If being poor in spirit means understanding that all we have is God’s gift, are you a thankful—*eucharistic*—person? Do you take time to thank God for all the gifts you’ve been given?

### ***Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.***

- Who has comforted you and helped you handle sorrow or suffering? How?
- Have you ever helped someone who is “down”? How?

### ***Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.***

The biblical meaning of “meek” indicates tolerance and respect. As Scripture scholar John P. Meier put it, the meek “do not push their own plans to the detriment of God’s saving plan.”

- Describe a time you were willing to be meek—to let go of your own plans or needs—in order to respect the needs and/or to further the plans of someone else.

### ***Blessed are they who hunger and search for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.***

Hope, it is said, is the trust that God will act on our behalf. And hope, said St. Augustine, “has two lovely daughters, anger and courage: anger so that what must not be, cannot be; and courage, so that what must be, will be.”

- What injustice in the world today (e.g., child abuse, poverty, people going hungry, etc.) makes you angry? (*Note:* If there is no injustice that angers you, why?)
- What gives you the courage to seek righteousness and justice?

## ***Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.***

Chapter 7 Handout 2

The quality of mercy is not strain'd,  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest;  
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:  
... It is an attribute to God himself;  
And earthly power doth then show likest God's  
When mercy seasons justice.

Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*

- The all-just God is also all-merciful. Who could stand before God's justice if God were not merciful?
- To whom do you need to show mercy?

## ***Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.***

Think of the Lord in goodness, and seek him in integrity of heart.

Wisdom 1:1

Persons who are clean of heart see the extraordinary in the ordinary. They have their eyes fixed firmly on the prize, and they refuse to allow anyone or anything to cloud their vision.

- Whom do you know who sees more than meets the eye, sees beneath the surface of things? How so?

## ***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.***

Who are the peacemakers? They are the people who face the difficulties of building relationships between disagreeing parties. They are the reconcilers among us.

- What do you think Martin Luther King, Jr., meant when he said, "There is no peace. Peace is the way"?
- What is one way you can be a peacemaker for others?

## ***Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.***

In his book *Jesus the Rebel*, Fr. John Dear, S.J., writes what *not* living this Beatitude means: "Blessed are those who are not persecuted for justice, who are comfortable, safe, and secure; who do not get involved in the struggle for social change; who remain silent; who turn a deaf ear to the cries of the poor; who fund and participate in systemic injustice. The reign of this world is theirs."

- Have you ever been harassed for living out your faith? If so, explain. If not, are you willing to be hassled?
- How might you respond to someone who said it was stupid to believe in all this "Beatitude" nonsense?

## Beatitude Questions

### ***Answer each of the following:***

- With which Beatitude do you feel most comfortable? Why?
- Which one is most puzzling? Why?
- Which beatitude makes you feel most uncomfortable? Why?
- Which Beatitude (or Beatitudes) do you feel is part of who you are? Why?
- Which Beatitude do you think you reflect most in your life? Why?
- Which one(s) do you feel called to develop more in your life? Why?

### ***Comment on the following:***

- The Beatitudes: impossible ideals or ideal possibilities?

## The Lord's Prayer x 4

Below are three different wordings of the Lord's Prayer. The first is the traditional wording. The second is from a recent liturgical resource, *A New Zealand Prayer Book/He Karakia Mihinare o Aeotearoa*. The third was composed by a group of young people your age.

Read and compare the three versions. Then, drawing on the material in the text and your own understanding, compose your own version of this powerful prayer, part by part.

### ***Our Father,***

Eternal Spirit Earth-maker, Pain-Bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.

*Father and Mother of us all,  
God, you are our Daddy. We are your children. We are family. This is our family prayer.*

---

---

---

### ***Who art in heaven***

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

*Heaven is your home, Daddy, and so heaven is our home, too.*

---

---

### ***Hallowed be thy name.***

The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!

*Daddy, we pray that everyone will see that you are present with us, and that no one will use your name as a magic word to make themselves feel safe or as a weapon to make others feel threatened.*

---

---

---

---

***Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.***

Chapter 7 Handout 4

The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope  
and come on earth.

*Daddy, set our hearts on your Kingdom before all else.  
Then, no matter what else we pray for,  
it will pave the way for your Kingdom's coming.*

---

---

---

---

***Give us this day our daily bread.***

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

*Daddy, give us what we need to keep us going—bread for the body and bread for the soul.*

---

---

***And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.***

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

*Help us remember and return your great favor of forgiveness.*

---

---

---

***And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.***

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

*Push us away from sin, but don't push us into the time of crisis until we've learned from you how to face it and survive.*

---

---

---

---