



# Seeking Fulfillment

IN PURSUIT: SEEKING THE MORAL LIFE  
SESSION 02

## Overview:

In this second session, Tanner talks about how the things of this world never fulfill us and wrestles with how humility can help us to get to heaven. This session also covers how the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes fit into God's plan and how morality is meant to be lived primarily as a relationship with God that transforms the way we live.

This session has approximately 12 minutes of video segments.

## Theme Scripture:

JOHN 10:10

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

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## A Key to Using this Guide:

**ANYTHING IN ITALICS:** Important information for leaders. Not necessary to share with the group.

**REGULAR FONT:** To be shared aloud with the group.

**LEADER TIPS:** Check out the “Leader Tip” boxes in the margins for helpful hints.

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# Connect

## 1. Check-In

*It is always good to check-in and ask, "How was your week?" demonstrating that you care about what is going on beyond your small group. You can ask generally or have them share "Highs and Lows." (High - best part of your week; Low - worst part)*

## 2. Accountability

*In the last session of "The Invitation," your group was introduced to the concept of "The 5 S's of Accountability." These are 5 things that a disciple should be striving toward. Check in each time you meet to see how everyone is progressing.*

*The 5 S's of Accountability: Service, Praying with Scripture, Sacraments, Overcoming Sin, Sharing Jesus with Others*

*Also, take time to ask them how their commitment from last meeting went. Remind them that your small group is a safe place to be honest about what is going well and what isn't.*

## 3. Optional Activity

This session's optional activity is a screen game that you can run with any smart device. Scan the QR code to choose your game.

These games were shared with YDisciple from our friends at ProjectYM. Want even more great screen games? Visit their website: <https://projectymgames.com/>



## 4. Opening Prayer

*Read the theme verse, John 10:10 (found on the first page of this guide) and then lead them in a prayer thanking God for the opportunity to be together and the opportunity to grow in faith, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time together. Conclude with a prayer together such as the Our Father, Glory Be, or Hail Mary.*

# Discuss

## Watch Video Segment #1

- WHAT IS ONE THING THAT STOOD OUT TO YOU?
- REMEMBER BACK TO OUR DISCUSSION IN SESSION 1 WHERE WE TALKED ABOUT THINGS THAT WE HAD REALLY WANTED, BUT FELL FLAT WHEN WE ACTUALLY GOT THEM. TANNER'S STORY ABOUT HIS AIR FORCE ONES ARE A GREAT REMINDER THAT THE THRILL FADES WHEN WE SEEK SATISFACTION IN THE WRONG PLACES. WHAT ARE THINGS THAT POP CULTURE OR PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE TELL YOU WILL SATISFY YOU, BUT YOU EITHER HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO ATTAIN OR THEY DIDN'T ACTUALLY SATISFY YOU WHEN YOU GOT THEM?
- FR. EMMANUEL TALKED ABOUT HOW EVEN THE WORDS WE USE LEAD US TO BELIEVE THAT MATERIAL THINGS WILL FULFILL OUR DESIRES (E.G. AMAZON "FULFILLMENT" WAREHOUSES). THINK OF THE HAPPIEST PERSON YOU KNOW. WHAT MAKES THEM SO HAPPY? IS IT THE THINGS THEY OWN OR SOMETHING ELSE?
- C.S. LEWIS SAYS, "IF WE FIND OURSELVES WITH A DESIRE THAT NOTHING IN THIS WORLD CAN SATISFY, THE MOST PROBABLE EXPLANATION IS THAT WE WERE MADE FOR ANOTHER WORLD." WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS MEANS?

### Leader Tip

Think of a story you can share about having this kind of experience. You can jumpstart the conversation by getting real yourself.



### Fr. Emmanuel Mansford, CFR

Fr. Emmanuel Mansford, CFR was born in London, England. He served as a missionary with NET Ministries from '95-'98 and later joined the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in September of 1998. He has spent his time since living among and serving the poor primarily in England and New York City.

- HOW DOES GOD USE OUR DESIRES TO DRAW US TO HIMSELF?
- ST. THOMAS AQUINAS DEFINES HUMILITY AS, “SEEING OURSELVES AS GOD SEES US: KNOWING EVERY GOOD WE HAVE COMES FROM HIM AS PURE GIFT.” C.S. LEWIS DEFINES IT THIS WAY: “HUMILITY IS NOT THINKING LESS OF YOURSELF. IT IS THINKING OF YOURSELF LESS.” HOW DO YOU THINK HUMILITY WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THE SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS?

## Watch Video Segment #2

- DESCRIBE A TIME THAT YOU’VE FELT THE MOST ALIVE.
- TIM TALKS ABOUT HOW JESUS DIDN’T COME TO MAKE BAD PEOPLE GOOD, HE CAME TO MAKE DEAD PEOPLE LIVE. HOW MIGHT A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS HELP US LIVE MORE FULLY?
- KACI TALKS ABOUT HOW SHE AND TANNER BOTH STRUGGLE TO TRY TO DO EVERYTHING ON THEIR OWN, INCLUDING GETTING TO HEAVEN. THEY RELY ON THEMSELVES RATHER THAN ON GOD. HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE YOU NEEDED TO EARN HEAVEN OR EARN GOD’S LOVE?
- HOW MIGHT HUMILITY HELP US FIGHT AGAINST SELF-RELIANCE?



### Kaci Cupps

Kaci Cupps has served as both a missionary and Regional Director for FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). You can learn more about Kaci at <https://www.focus.org/missionaries/kaci-cupps>

### Leader Tip

This is a critical point for them to understand as you break open the moral life. Consider this quote from Venerable Fulton Sheen: “God loves you despite your unworthiness. It is his love that will make you better rather than your betterment which will make him love you.”

- **TIM SAYS THAT MORALITY ISN'T A BUNCH OF RULES, BUT A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THAT HELPS US LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL. HE GIVES THE EXAMPLE OF MOTHER TERESA, WHO WAS RADICALLY TRANSFORMED BY GOD SO THAT SHE WENT OUT AND LOVED OTHERS RADICALLY BY SERVING THE POOREST OF THE POOR IN THE SLUMS OF KOLKATA, INDIA. HOW DOES MOTHER TERESA'S EXAMPLE SHOW US HOW A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD CAN TRANSFORM US AND HELP US TO BE LOVE TO OTHERS? HOW COULD THAT LOOK PRACTICALLY IN THE LIFE OF A TEENAGER LIKE YOURSELF?**

### **Leader Tip**

Some of the members of your small group might not know who Mother Teresa is. Take time before diving into the question to tell them her story. The Missionaries of Charity website has a great summary of Mother Teresa's life [here](#).

## **Watch Video Segment #3**

- **WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE BEATITUDES?**
- **HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE RELIGION WAS JUST A BUNCH OF RULES? HOW DID THAT VIEW OF RELIGION IMPACT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?**
- **TANNER TALKS ABOUT THIS G.K. CHESTERTON QUOTE: "THE MORE I CONSIDERED CHRISTIANITY, THE MORE I FOUND THAT WHILE IT HAD ESTABLISHED A RULE AND ORDER, THE CHIEF AIM OF THAT ORDER WAS TO GIVE ROOM FOR GOOD THINGS TO RUN WILD." HOW DO YOU THINK RULES MIGHT ALLOW GOOD THINGS TO RUN WILD? IN OTHER WORDS, HOW MIGHT FOLLOWING THE RULES GOD GIVES US GIVE US A FULLER LIFE?**

### **Leader Tip**

Your students might not have a concept of the 10 Commandments or the Beatitudes. Consider reviewing them briefly at Exodus 20:1-17 and Matthew 5:3-11 respectively.

### **Leader Tip**

Spend some time praying with this question yourself. Sharing your own experience of wrestling with this will be very powerful.

- **TANNER TALKS ABOUT HOW THE COMMANDMENTS AND THE BEATITUDES ARE THE MAP GOD GIVES US TO GET TO HEAVEN, AND HOW FOLLOWING THAT MAP MAKES SENSE SINCE THE ONE WHO MADE THE MAP ALSO MADE US. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO BE HAPPY/FULFILLED/SATISFIED?**
- **DO YOU THINK THAT FOLLOWING THE COMMANDMENTS AND BEATITUDES CAN HELP YOU GET THERE? WHY OR WHY NOT?**

# Commit

## Closing Prayer

In the last section of the video, Tanner talks about how the Beatitudes are part of the map God gives us to get to heaven and to live a more full life on earth . For our closing prayer today, we're going to take some time to read a reflection on the Beatitudes and how they apply to our lives. Pay attention to which of the Beatitudes sticks out to you the most.

*Begin with the Sign of the Cross. Then read the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:3-11.*

Each of the Beatitudes begins with the words "Blessed are they...." Fr. Anthony tells Tanner that the original Greek, the language the New Testament was written in, the word in place of "Blessed" is *makarios*, which translates to 'happy' or perhaps even 'lucky.'

Bishop Robert Barron uses this translation of "lucky" to help us better understand the Beatitudes. He writes:

*'Blessed are the poor in spirit.' We might say, 'How lucky you are if you are not addicted to material things.' Here Jesus is telling us how to realize our deepest desire, which is the desire for God, not for passing things that only bring temporary comfort.*

*'Blessed are those who mourn.' We might interpret it this way: 'How lucky you are if you are not addicted to good feelings.' Doing the will of God sometimes involves the acceptance of enormous pain, but when you're free from dependence on good feelings, you're liberated for whatever life demands.*

*'Blessed are the meek.' One of the world's greatest seductions is power. But what we ought to do is eschew worldly power, so that the power of the will of God might reign in us.*

*'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.' In other words, how lucky you are if you are not addicted to the approval of others."*

- **GO THROUGH THE REST OF THE BEATITUDES. USING THE EXAMPLES BISHOP BARRON GIVES, HOW WOULD YOU REPHRASE THE REMAINING BEATITUDES?**
- **WHICH BEATITUDE STICKS OUT TO YOU THE MOST?**

### **Leader Tip**

A longer version of Bishop Barron's reflection, among many others, can be found in the Word on Fire Bible: Gospels. Consider purchasing a copy for your own prayer and to help in breaking open the scriptures with your group.

## **Commitment**

This week, choose one of the Beatitudes that sticks out to you the most and commit to working on that Beatitude this week. For example, if you chose "Blessed are the poor in spirit," you could go through your clothes and donate some to Goodwill or fast from eating out this week and donate that money instead.

## **Follow-up Checklist**

- Send the Parent Sheet.
- Remind them to bring a Bible to every meeting.
- Consider sending them a reminder between sessions of the COMMIT.
- Pray!