**5-6-2018**

**Discussion Guide**

**Change of View – Baptisms**

Talk a bit about baptism. What was your family’s (or church) traditions when it came to baptism?

Do you remember your baptism? If so, do you remember why you got baptized or how you came to the decision to be baptized?

If you could go back to your baptism, is there something you would change?

Why does baptism work so well with this teaching series, Change of View?

**The Text** Read Matthew 5:1-12

What are some of the lessons you’ve learned from this series so far?

Has your view been changing? How?

Beyond this series, can you think of how God has changed your view during your faith journey?

What is the difference between an active and a passive beatitude?

How are beatitudes 1 and 2 passive? Why is understanding this important as we read the beatitudes?

**Read verse 6**

How do each of your translations differ? Is it all split between righteousness and justice? What is the difference between the two? How are they related to each other?

Can you think of times in your life when you had hunger and thirst for justice?

Listen to each other’s stories.

What is the difference between justice and revenge?

Why does God care about how we care about justice?

What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness? What is righteousness?

Is it different from being good? If so, how?

What does it mean about following Jesus for Jesus to have made a hunger and thirst call to righteousness – justice?

Some churches have become very focused on “justice issues” such as relief, feeding the hungry, medical issues, poverty… Is there any danger in that focus? What is the flip side…

What do you think it means to do our good deeds “in the name of Christ”?

Why is that important?

**Read verses 7 and 8**

What does it mean to show mercy?

Is there a disturbing aspect to verse 7?

Can you think of a time you struggled to show mercy?

How do we forgive people for things we don’t want to forgive?

Does forgiveness mean there are no consequences?

What does it mean to have a pure heart?

Why is important?

How do you know the impurities of your own heart?

What can we do about it?

How does this message and study change the way you think? …the way you pray? Or the way we live?