

### Media and Graphics Notes

<b>Sermon Starter Video?</b>	There will be a sermon starter video.
<b>Sermon Notes?</b>	
<b>Other Notes</b>	

### Key Questions, Metadata and Outline

#### ***What is this sermon about?***

This sermon is about ways to hunger and thirst for righteousness in our life and in the life of our family.

#### ***Why is this sermon important?***

This sermon is important because our family life has a significant impact on our own. Also, paying attention to God in our daily life can be a significant part of our spiritual life.

#### ***What is the context of this sermon?***

The Bless this Home sermon series and this sermon have been prepared with the help of the Bless this Home sermon series and resources from LifeChurch.tv. You can find resources used for this series on the LifeChurch.tv Open website at <http://opn.rs/cs/g/s2>

#### ***What are the next action steps?***

- Involve God in our daily life.
- Make spiritual practices a non-negotiable for our family.

#### ***What is the good news (bottom line)?***

- You can find fulfillment in your life and for your family in Jesus.
- The good news is that God is at work changing our spiritual appetite.

#### **Metadata**

1. Topic(s)
  1. Grow
  2. Changing Lives
2. Sermon Books of the Bible
  1. Matthew
3. Tags



18th Sunday after Pentecost  
Bless this Home - Hungry and Thirsty  
First United Methodist Church of El Dorado  
Text Online at <http://j.mp/1DrhvA8>

September 27, 2015  
Matthew 5:1-6, NIV  
Preaching Target Word Count: 1,949  
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## Matthew 5:1-6, NIV

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said:  
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

## Response to Scripture

One: The Word of God for the People of God.  
**All: Thanks be to God!**

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## Introduction

### Sermon Starter Video

[Play sermon starter video.](#)

### Blessing of Home and Family

Today we begin a new series called "Bless this Home." As we begin, let me get a little participation.

How many of you would love to have your homes and families be blessed?

Raise your hands up high. Raise them up high.

There are some that do not have your hands up.

So, I'm assuming you want yours cursed? Of course you don't, do you? No.

We all would love to see our homes and families blessed.

### Reality of Families

But when you look at families today, in general, "blessed" is not the first word that comes mind. Right? When we look at our families today, rather than say, "Man, we are really blessed," more often, we say, "Wow, we are really struggling." "Our marriage is not what it could be" or "raising the kids it's more difficult than we thought," or "financially, Man, we're, you know, we're kind of living paycheck-to-paycheck."

### Opportunities and Challenges for Families

There are challenges and opportunities for families today.

#### *Blended*

There are more and more blended families in El Dorado which brings opportunities and challenges. This can be a great blessing. You are also raising his kids, her kids and our kids. There are both exes and it's complicated.

### ***Single Parent***

There are a large number of single parents in Butler County today. This can be an opportunity if it is safer for everyone involved. However, it can be difficult when you are trying to support a family on one income. It can be overwhelming when there is only one of you carry all the responsibility for raising the kids.

### ***Series Overview***

What we will do in this series is take a closer look at the teaching of Jesus from Matthew, chapter 5, when he shared what is known as the beatitudes. In the first two weeks we will apply several of them to our home and in the final week of this series, we will take a closer look at the reality of life for children and families here in Butler County.

### **Sermon Notes and Scripture Study**

I invite you to open your bulletin to a place where you can take notes during the message today. Today, I hope that you will hear:

- Something new or find new questions
- Perspective on your life or something in your life that gives additional meaning to the message today.
- Guidance about how to live as a disciple of Jesus.

I invite you to write down some of the things that you hear in the sermon today and take your bulletin home as a tool to grow in your faith outside of worship. You can reflect on what you heard today, pray for people of our congregation and read scripture to prepare for worship next week.

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## **Opening**

### **Prayer**

Will you pray with me? O God, use these words to speak good news so that as individuals and as a congregation we will fear nothing but sin, desire nothing but you and live as part of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

### **Our Family**

During this series, we are talking about families. I hope that you will learn something that will be helpful in your home. I want to be clear that our family is far from perfect. We do not have it all figured out.

### ***Misbehavior***

There are things that go wrong in our family - at home and when we are out and about. When someone is misbehaving – it could be any of the four of us, especially me – what does not happen is that someone breaks into a hymn and we all stop and sing a four part harmony. It's not like that.

## Example of "Perfect Family"

I have a clergy colleague that tells the story of their youngest daughter who was in elementary school. Their daughter's teacher was a volunteer at the church, so that's how they heard the story.

The teacher said that all the kids were talking about how their parents always yell at them. And my colleague's daughter said, "My parents never yell at us."

And the teacher thought, "Well, there you are. The preacher's family, once again, is perfect." Then, their daughter said that again.

She said, "My parents never yell at the kids. They yell at each other everyday but they never yell at the kids." And she thought that was really funny and tells my colleague that story every time they meet.

No preacher's family is perfect.

Our family is not perfect.

No family is perfect but we are being perfected by God at work in us.

### Transition

So, let's take a closer look at the scripture passage for us today.

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## Hunger and Thirst

### Context of the Sermon on the Mount

This passage of scripture is the beginning of what you may know as the Sermon on the Mount. This is a lengthy sermon which Jesus delivered near the beginning of his ministry and you can find it in Chapters 5 to 7 of Matthew. This is a rich section of scripture in which Jesus teaches how to live as part of God's kingdom.

### Hunger and Thirst

With that in mind, let's look at Matthew Chapter 5, verse 6.

You can find it in your bulletin.

Will you read it with me?

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*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.<sup>1</sup>*

When you hunger and thirst for righteousness, you will be filled.

Yet today, so many homes are not filled with what matters most and instead are filled with all kinds of other things.

Why is that?

It may be that we fill our lives with things that don't matter.

Perhaps, we don't really hunger and thirst for righteousness, for right living and following after God.

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 5:6, NIV.

## **Reflection: What are you hungering for?**

So, I have a question for you and I invite you to be honest with yourself.

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*In your home, what are you hungering for?*

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*In your life, where you live, with your friends, what are you pursuing?*

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*What matters most to you?*

Let's make it a bit easier – look at the last seven days.  
What have you or your family been pursuing?  
What were you hungering for?

### **Relaxation and Fun**

And if you're honest, some of us would have to say things like, "Well, you know, we're really just trying to relax," which there's nothing wrong with that.

Or, "We're trying to have a good time."

"We want to work hard for the week so that we can do whatever we want on the weekend."

"We just want to have fun, to chill, to unwind, to do something fun."

Be honest with yourself. That sounds pretty good.

### **Popularity and Image Management**

Some would say, "Well, you know, we're hungering for popularity."

"You know, we want other people to like us and so we're kind of about image management, look at our family from the outside, look at the way we dress, look at our home, look at our yard, look at the cars we drive, look at the way we walk into church." "Don't we have it all together."

You know, so, it's image management.

I get it.

### **Priorities Other than God**

If we are honest with ourselves, the truth is that over the last seven days we were pursuing something or many things instead of God.

We were not hungering and thirsting for righteousness.

### **Transition**

So, what do we do when we realize that we are hungering for the wrong things?

What do we do when we have an appetite for things that do not satisfy?

Well, we change our appetites.



## **Change Our Appetite**

### **Eating Dessert**

#### ***Love Dessert***

For example, how many of you love dessert? You can raise your hand or say with me, "I love dessert."

Am I the only one that loves dessert?

I love all kinds of dessert. I love dessert more than you.

I like expensive dessert. I like cheap dessert.

I like warm dessert. I like cold dessert.

Over the summer, I realized I was getting a little too much dessert.

#### ***Eat Less***

And so, I decided to try eating a little bit less – less sugary food. I kept track of what I was eating and it helped me eat less dessert. A few weeks into it, I thought, "Wow! I feel really good. I've got energy. This is fantastic." So, I kept going.

Then, a couple weeks ago, I thought "I'm doing good, life's short. I don't need to keep track of what I eat so closely."

#### ***Brownies***

Then, last week, I bought some triple chocolate brownies. This is dessert, right? About halfway through the first brownie, I thought, "This is not as satisfying as I thought it would be." I realized my appetite was starting to change.

It didn't matter.

I kept eating.

I ate half a pan of brownies.

I felt terrible.

#### ***Appetite Changed***

What I realized is what you probably already know, when you eat food that is better for you, you stop craving the junk food that is not as good for you. When you eat junk food, you don't look for food that is healthier for you.

Your appetite changes, depending on what you eat.

You can shape your desires by your actions

### **Spiritual Appetite**

This is also true for our spiritual life.

When you decide to follow Jesus and begin engaging in the spiritual practices to worship, grow, give, serve and share you begin to see a difference in your life.

You find that God walks with us through good times and bad.

Your perspective changes and what we find important may begin to shift.

You begin to find that you are longing for more of God.

You find that the junk food of this world – which distracted you, wasn't good for you and didn't satisfy – is not at the top of your priorities.

You are developing an appetite for following God.

You are hungering and thirsting for righteousness and find yourself fulfilled and satisfied as you live as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

### ***Transition***

So, how do we do that?

How do we begin to change our spiritual appetite?

As a family, how do we hunger and thirst for righteousness?

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## **Live as Followers of Jesus**

One way to do this is for your family to actually live as followers of Jesus.

This means that as individuals or together you are engaging in spiritual practices to worship, grow, give serve and share.

### ***Practical Advice***

I want to share with you some practical things you can do as a family that will help create an appetite for these kinds of practices. Then, as you practice them, you will find that your spiritual appetite begins to change.

Again, our family does not have it all together. I want to share with you some things that we want to try that might be helpful for you as well.

### **Involve God in Daily Life**

The first is to involve God in our daily life.

As you go through our day, look for where God is at work.

When you talk about something, involve God in our daily conversations.

This may seem strange, but it is really simple.

### ***Sunrise***

You're driving along outside, beautiful sunrise on the way to school, you say, "Man, that's awesome." Instead, say, "Wow, look at the sunrise. God's creation is awesome." God is part of our life and our conversation.

### ***Decision Making***

When you have to make a decision in your marriage, instead of saying, "I don't know what to do. What should we do? Let's just look at the pros and cons."

You should look at the pros and cons.

You might also say, "I wonder what God wants us to do?" And so, in your decision making, you are reminding yourself you are not just a Christian, you are actually living as a follower of Jesus.

### ***Transition***

You can involve God in your daily life

### **Make Spiritual Practices a Non Negotiable**

If you want to hunger and thirst for righteousness, you make spiritual practices a non negotiable.

### ***Worship***

You might make worship a priority for your family. You could make a commitment to take one hour a week to honor the creator and sustainer of the universe and you say as a family, "We're going to go to worship, period."

This is part of who we are. We are actually living as followers of Jesus.

### ***Give***

You might make giving a priority for your family. You recognize that all that you have is a gift from God and you want to be a good steward of your financial resources. You could make a commitment to give financially to be part of God's work through this church. You can set up an EFT to make sure that you give to God first, before anything else.

You can let your family know – this is who we are. We want to follow Jesus.

### ***Grow***

Maybe for your family, it is a priority to grow in your faith outside of worship. Every morning at breakfast, our family reads the Upper Room together. If we are running late, we try to get it in at another meal time together. Reading the Bible and praying are important in our life of faith.

This is who we are as a family. We actually want to live as followers of Jesus.

### ***Transition***

You can make spiritual practices a non-negotiable

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## **Conclusion**

In your home, what are you hungering for?

In your life, where you live, with your friends, what are you pursuing?

What matters most to you?

## **Good News**

You can find fulfillment in your life and for your family in Jesus.

The good news is that God is at work changing our spiritual appetite.

## **Call to Action**

We can involve God in our daily life.

We can make spiritual practices a non-negotiable for our family.

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## **Invitation**

God's invitation for us today is to find life for ourselves and our family.  
We can find life as a disciple of Jesus and discover the truth that blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

## **Closing Prayer**

[Text here]  
Amen.