



WEEK #4: Happy Are the Hungry and Thirsty

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matthew 5:6 (NIV)

Righteousness is:

• A _____.

The Good News shows how God makes people right with himself . . .

Romans 1:17 (NCV)

. . . God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. . .

Isaiah 61:10 (NLT)

• A _____.

...all who practice righteousness are God's true children.

1 John 2:29 (MSG)

Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.

James 2:26 (NLT)

. . . join the company of good men and women, . . . and stay on the paths of the righteous.

Proverbs 2:20 (MSG/NLT)

How do I stay spiritually hungry?

"You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat."

Matthew 5:6 (MSG)

1. Stop filling up on _____.

"Hey there! All who are thirsty, come to the water! Are you penniless? Come anyway—buy and eat! Come, buy your drinks, buy wine and milk. Buy without money—everything's free! Why do you spend your money on junk food, your hard-earned cash on cotton candy? Listen to me, listen well: Eat only the best, fill yourself with only the finest."

Isaiah 55:1-2 (MSG)

2. Trust in God's _____.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! . . .

1 John 3:1 (NIV)

. . . may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Ephesians 3:18-19 (NLT)

"Seek first God's kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well."

Matthew 6:33 (NCV)

Discussion Questions:

1. God sent Jesus to join us in our brokenness, meet our deepest needs, and reconcile us to God. Righteousness is a gift Jesus gives us. In Christ, we are "right" with God. Do you ever struggle with attempting to earn God's grace? Have you ever wondered, "How good is good enough?"

2. Righteousness = Love. God gives us the hunger for unconditional love, AND He gives us free access to an unlimited resource of love. But am I living like this is true? What is the difference between acts of righteousness because I'm loved vs. acting in righteousness to earn love?

Recommended Resources:

- *Surrender to Love*, by David G. Benner
- *The Good Life*, by Dr. Derwin L. Gray
- *The Be (Happy) Attitudes*, by Robert H. Schuller