



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 3

Life and Action
Blessed are those
who hunger and thirst
for righteousness

Bible Readings

Isaiah 58

Matthew 5:6

Romans 3:21-31



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Broadly explain what 'righteousness' is.
- More clearly distinguish your priorities in life, and what you 'hunger and thirst' for.
- Describe the passion for righteousness of William Booth, and the effect it has had upon history

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question What do you want most in life?

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Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

Passionate – What have you felt really strongly or passionately about this week? - OR - What have you really wanted?

Bored – What have you felt totally apathetic (i.e. uninterested, unconcerned, 'who cares?') about?

Discussion Starter:

What do you want most in life? What do you (metaphorically) hunger and thirst for?

Some interesting facts:

Righteousness' is a word rarely ever used these days. It can be understood as being in right relationship with God and others. A result of our right relationship with God is that we live 'righteously' or, more simply, 'rightly'.

So a person who hungers and thirsts for righteousness desperately longs to be in right relationship with God and others, and also longs to live rightly.

Someone who hungers and thirsts for righteousness also longs for other people to live righteously, to be in right relationship with God, and to be treated rightly or justly.

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: Isaiah 58:6-12 & Matthew 5:6

William Booth and his wife Catherine founded The Salvation Army. They lived in England in the eighteen hundreds.

After working with, helping, and preaching to the poorest of the poor in England for years and years, William Booth spoke these words at his 83rd birthday celebration:

*"While women weep as they do now, I'll fight;
While little children go hungry as they do now, I'll fight;
While men go to prison, in and out, in and out, I'll fight;
While there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, I'll fight;
Where there yet remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll fight!- I'll fight to the very end"*

When interviewed, Booth was asked what the secret of his success was. The interviewer records his response: "He hesitated a second, and I saw the tears come into his eyes and steal down his cheeks, and then he said: "I will tell you the secret. God has had all there was of me. There have been men with greater opportunities; but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart, and a vision of what Jesus Christ could do with the poor of London, I made up my mind that God would have all of William Booth there was. And if there is anything of power in The Salvation Army today, it is because God has all the adoration of my heart, all the power of my will, and all the influence of my life."

William Booth hungered and thirsted to be righteous; to give himself over to God, and be in real relationship with Him. He also hungered and thirsted for others to be set right with God, for them to be treated rightly by others, and for them to live righteously themselves. God wants us to desire righteousness and to strive for it (see Isaiah 58), and He honoured Booth's courage by using him to change the world.

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Explore – Express

Express Isaiah 58:6-12 in your own way.

You may like to do this using:

- A poem or song
- A picture or poster
- A visual presentation (i.e. using the computer)
- A drama
- A dance

Explore – Integrate

- How is someone put into right relationship with God?
- Why is desiring 'righteousness' important in God's sight?
- How does someone begin to live rightly?
- What 5 things do you hunger and thirst for most in life?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Pray together:

*Lord,
Help us to hunger for justice,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with you.*

Amen.

(Adapted from Micah 6:8)