Icebreaker:
Everyone has been talking about the extreme cold. Did it disrupt your plans? If so, how?

Read this week’s scripture and discuss:
1. Read aloud Matthew 5:1-10 in the Message translation of the Bible on your phone or at biblegateway.com. In this translation, which uses contemporary everyday language, what stands out to you and why?
2. The beatitudes of verses 2-10 can be viewed as circular and interconnected. Which “blessedness” might you desire? Which “blessedness” do you desire least? What blessing might God desire to give to you?
3. The Greek word “praieit,” translated “meek” or “gentle,” is used in Matt 5:5 and Matt 11:29, where Jesus spoke of Himself in the image of yokes and oxen. In what way are oxen “meek” or “gentle”? What might be the connection between “meekness,” oxen, and “the earth”?
4. Does our culture encourage “meekness”? Why or why not? What would happen in our world if we aspired to “meekness”?
5. Bible commentator Tom Long says “‘Meekness’ is not timidity or passivity but rather a patient trusting that God will act in due time, an insistence on being nonviolent even in the midst of a violent society, a contentment with the basic necessities of life even in a possession-hungry world, and taking delight in the gifts of God and the many comforts of faith.” Do any of these components of being meek stand out to you?
6. The meek that Jesus speaks of can be the powerless of the world. In our community, most of us are not powerless. What does the passage then say to us?
7. Some describe the Kingdom of God as an upside-down kingdom. What would make it upside-down in light of the Beatitudes? How is it different from a worldly kingdom?

Prayer:
As you pray for one another, please pray for the following needs in our church family:

Prayer requests

> Prayers of continued healing for Regina Franks.
> Pray for the guests and team members of the Boys Awakening, which is taking place in our building this weekend.