

Title ideas:

Kingdom Character – Those who hunger and thirst for
Righteousness.

Scriptures:

Psalms 42:1-2 - As the deer
pants for the water brooks,
so pants my soul for You, O
God. 2 My soul thirsts for
God, for the living God.
When shall I come and
appear before God?

Isaiah 61:10 -

I will greatly rejoice in
the LORD,
My soul shall be joyful in
my God;

For He has clothed me
with the garments of
salvation,

He has covered me with
the robe of righteousness,

As a bridegroom decks
himself with ornaments,

And as a bride adorns
herself with her jewels.

Romans 1:16-17 - For I am
not ashamed of the gospel
of Christ, for it is the power
of God to salvation for
everyone who believes, for
the Jew first and also for
the Greek. 17 For in it the
righteousness of God is
revealed from faith to faith;
as it is written, "The just
shall live by faith."

Romans 3:10-12 - As it is
written:

"There is none righteous,
no, not one;

11 There is none who
understands;

There is none who seeks
after God.

12 They have all
turned aside;

They have together
become unprofitable;

There is none who does
good, no, not one."

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For He
made Him who knew no sin
to be sin for us, that we
might become the
righteousness of God in
Him.

John 16:8 - And when He
has come, He will convict
the world of sin, and of
righteousness, and of
judgment...

Philippians 3:8-14 - Yet
indeed I also count all
things loss for the
excellence of the
knowledge of Christ Jesus
my Lord, for whom I have
suffered the loss of all
things, and count them as
rubbish, that I may gain
Christ 9 and be found in
Him, not having my own

Matthew 5:6 - Kingdom Character – Those who hunger and thirst for Righteousness.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst

G3983 – desire
strongly – "to desire ⇔
hunger v. — to desire,
conceived of as feeling
the physiological need
to eat."

G1372 – "to desire
⇔ thirst v. — to
desire, conceived
of as feeling the
physiological need
to drink."

for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

G1343 - what is right, justice - be put
right with, be in a right relationship with
- religious observances, act of
righteousness, i.e., practices required by
a religion. "righteousness n. —
adherence to what is required according
to a standard; for example, a moral
standard, though not always."

righteousness, which is
from the law, but that
which is through faith in
Christ, the righteousness
which is from God by faith;
10 that I may know Him
and the power of His
resurrection, and the
fellowship of His sufferings,
being conformed to His
death, 11 if, by any means,
I may attain to the
resurrection from the dead.
12 Not that I have already
attained, or am already
perfected; but I press on,
that I may lay hold of that
for which Christ Jesus has
also laid hold of me.
13 Brethren, I do not count
myself to have
apprehended; but one
thing I do, forgetting those
things which are behind
and reaching forward to
those things which are
ahead, 14 I press toward
the goal for the prize of the
upward call of God in Christ
Jesus.

Psalms 34:10 - The young
lions lack and suffer
hunger;
But those who seek the
LORD shall not lack any
good thing.

Psalms 107:8-9 - Oh, that
men would give thanks to
the LORD for His goodness,
And for His wonderful
works to the children of
men!

9 For He satisfies the
longing soul,
And fills the hungry soul
with goodness.

G5526 – (verb,
future, passive)

But it should not go away once
someone is saved. It should be
replaced by a hunger and thirst to be
practically righteous just like Jesus. It
should manifest as a growing need
to walk closer with Him in this life.

One of the paradoxes of Christianity
is that upon being saved we are
filled with the presence of God and
yet the closer we draw near to God,
the more we feel the need for more
of God.

This is a warning against becoming
complacent in your faith. 'who
hunger' is a verb in the present
tense, active voice. Do you, right
now, sense you need more
righteousness? Do you sense a
heart-level need to be more like
Christ? Or are you comfortable with
where your faith is? Are you 'good
enough' to get into heaven?

Paul expressed the attitude we
should have regarding being content
with our spiritual growth (Phil. 3:8-
14).

'they shall be filled' – God creates a
need within us so that He can fill it
(Psa. 34:10; 107:8-9). The humble
believer who senses their need also
realizes that only God can fill it, so
they turn to Him and seek Him.
Without God creating the need
within us, we would not seek Him.

In heaven we will be filled with
perfect holiness, and we will never
hunger and thirst again.

Notes:

The first three beatitudes focused on
a sincere evaluation of self. First, a
sense of our need for God. A deep
sense of our utter nothingness
before God. Second, the judging of
ourselves as guilty before God and
sorrowing over our lost condition.
Third, abandoning all pretenses of
merit and falling on our faces before
God in humility. Those three then
produce a sense of great need within
us that causes us to turn our eyes
more fully toward God.

'righteousness' – being in a right
relationship with God.

"This longing for God is a longing to
see God's kingdom established in His
people, who then practice justice
themselves." (Augsburger, 1982)
page 60

The Bible teaches that righteousness
is inextricably related to salvation
(Isa. 61:10). Paul summarizes that
truth (Rom. 1:16-17).

As sinners, we are destitute of
righteousness (Rom. 3:10).

"Just as the sins of God's people
were all transferred to Christ, so His
righteousness is placed upon them."
(Pink, 2011) page 29 (2 Cor. 5:21)

God demands perfect righteousness
to satisfy His righteous
commandments. But because we are
spiritual paupers, desperately guilty,
and without merit, God imparts the
perfect righteousness of Christ
through faith.

It is not unreasonable to want to see
justice within the world. There can
be no justice apart from
righteousness. Our desire for justice
must be preceded by our own desire
for righteousness within ourselves
and the people around us, then in
those in the world.

'hunger and thirst' – This expresses a
great desire, of which the soul is
acutely aware of. First, the Holy
Spirit makes us aware of God's
perfect, holy standards (John 16:8),
which God can never lower. The
Spirit then reveals to us that unless
we our righteousness is perfect, we
cannot see God or go to heaven.
Then, our soul realizes and confesses
our abject spiritual poverty and
inability to meet God's standard of
perfection. That painful discovery
causes us to mourn and groan in
grief as we understand our
desperate position. It is then that
the Holy Spirit creates within the
believer that 'hungers and thirsts for
righteousness.' In humility, we turn
to God and seek Him with our whole
being because He is the only one
who can meet our need.

It is this hunger and thirst that
originally brings someone to Christ.

Top of section [Top of chapter](#)