

Blessed are the Peacemakers

(Matthew 5:9)

Pre-Session Warm Up

Have you ever seen a father and son who look so much alike that people say, "*It's easy to see he is that man's son!*"? When others look at your life, do they say, "*This boy [or girl] is a child of God*"? Do people know you're a Christian by the way you act?

When you hang out with God in prayer and by reading the Bible and having Christian friends, you'll begin to look more and more like your heavenly Father. People will be able to tell there is something special about you. You'll have godly attitudes about things in life.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we want people to know that we are a Christian by the way we act. We want people to want to know You better, by seeing our lives. We want to begin to look more and more like You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
(Matthew 5:9)

Lesson

Open your Bible to Matthew 5. We've been studying *The Beatitudes*. Who can remember what a beatitude is? (A beatitude is the blessing you get from God when you have the kind of attitudes that please Him.) I call them "*Be-Attitudes*" because they are attitudes that ought to be in our hearts. God gives us blessings when we allow Him to control our thoughts and feelings.

The Beatitudes tell us about the kinds of attitudes we should have to receive blessings from God — blessings that God gives us when we

allow Him to control our attitudes. What's an *attitude*? (A way we show people what we're thinking and feeling.)

Jesus taught that if we have certain attitudes, we would live a happy and fulfilled life. So, it's important for us to understand what attitudes God wants us to have.

What are the godly attitudes God wants us to have that we've studied so far?

Review

[Teacher, as you review these verses, have the children observe the text in their own Bibles. Lead them to understand the meaning of the words by asking questions and getting responses from them.]

The **first** beatitude is found in Matthew 5:3,

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

We learned that God is really pleased with us when we know that we are "*poor in spirit*" (that is, we know that we are lost without Jesus). He promises that once we turn to Him to ask Him to forgive us of our sins, we receive the right to go to Heaven when we die. It says, "*for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*"

The **second** beatitude is found in Matthew 5:4,

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

We learned that this means that we will be truly happy if we are sincerely sorry about our sins. What is the blessing? God comforts us! God promises to forgive everyone who confesses their sins and to restore them to right standing before Him.

The **third** beatitude is in Matthew 5:5,

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

We learned that we will be truly happy if we become humble and stop trying to be the center of attention. What's the blessing? God promises us "*the earth.*" This is total appreciation for your life here on earth: your health, friends, family, fresh air and sunshine, etc. You see, when we begin to take our eyes off of ourselves, we start

enjoying the beauty and the bounty of the earth around us. That's when we get the most out of life. And, we look forward to being with Jesus in the life to come.

The **fourth** beatitude is in Matthew 5:6,

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

We learned that we will be truly happy if we earnestly desire to do what is right and good. What's the promised blessing in this beatitude? God promises that we shall be filled, that is, we will be completely satisfied deep down in our heart and soul. When you sincerely desire to do what is right it gives you a lasting happiness because you know you are in the center of God's will.

The **fifth** beatitude is in Matthew 5:7,

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

We learned that we should have compassion towards others. What blessing does God promise us if we are always forgiving and kind to people? We learned that if we show mercy towards others, others will show mercy towards us. Why should we show mercy? (Because God has been merciful to us.)

The **sixth** beatitude is in Matthew 5:8. Who can read Matthew 5:8 for us?

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

We learned that to be truly happy we should make sure our hearts remain blameless and guilt free. What does your Heavenly Father promise you if you keep your heart pure? You will be able to see God! If we have a pure heart, we'll get to live in the presence of God forever in Heaven.

Today we will study the **seventh** beatitude. Who can read Matthew 5:9 for us?

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

What's a *peacemaker*? (One who soothes anger; someone who causes peace to break out between people who are enemies.)

What's the blessing God promises us if we are peacemakers? (We shall be called sons of God.)

Did you know that before we became Christians, we were considered enemies of God? If you aren't for Him, you're against Him. When we asked God to forgive us of our sins and we made Jesus the Lord of our lives, we made peace with God. And now He calls us His children. Galatians 3:26 says, *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."* As children of God, we get the right to go to Heaven to live with Him forever more.

So the first way we can be peacemakers is by making peace with God by believing in what Jesus did for us on the cross.

What are some other ways to be a peacemaker? Another way we can be peacemakers is to keep peace at home by obeying your parents. Have you ever noticed that when you don't obey, you're parents get mad, raise their voices, you end up getting punished? It's better to obey and let peace reign in your home, isn't it?

You can also be a peacemaker among your friends by being truthful and kind and by letting others have their way. God wants us to love others. No one will want to pick a fight with you if you are loving towards them. God's kind of love expects good things for others.

What about if someone tries to start a fight? You need to stay calm and look for ways to come to agreement on things; look for ways to compromise. Sometimes being a peacemaker means you won't get your way. God's kind of love puts other people first.

James 3:17 says,

"But, the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

Doesn't that sound like all the attitudes that we've been studying in the *beatitudes*?

Being at peace with God and others will bring you great happiness.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for making peace with us and for allowing us to be called Your children. We want to be peacemakers in our families and with our friends. Help us always to be truthful and kind. Help us to allow others to have their way. Show us how to be loving to everyone that comes into our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Centers

Craft Corner

Game Center

Have the children work on the *Results* worksheet or send it home as a "take home" paper.

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What attitude have we studied about today that God want us to have? (Being a peacemaker)
2. What's a peacemaker? (Someone who causes peace to break out between people who are enemies)
3. What's the blessing God promises us if we are peacemakers? (We shall be called sons of God.)
4. What special right or privilege do we get when we become children of God? (We get to go to Heaven and live with God.)
5. Who are the enemies of God? (People who aren't Christians)
6. How do you make peace with God? (By asking Him to forgive you of your sins and making Jesus Lord of your life.)
7. Are you at peace with God?
8. How can you be a peacemaker at home? (By obeying parents)
9. How can you be a peacemaker among your friends? (By being truthful and kind)
10. What can you do if someone wants to start a fight? (Stay calm and look for ways to compromise.)
11. If you died today where would you go? What will happen after you die? Can you be sure?
12. Tell about a time you were a peacemaker.
13. Tell how you can be a peacemaker at home this week.



Results

The Beatitudes give us a good example of cause and effect in God's kingdom. Match the cause on the left with the effect on the right. Check your work in Matthew 5:1-12.

Cause

Poor in spirit

Mourn

Meek

Hunger and thirst

Merciful

Pure in heart

Peacemakers

Persecuted

Effect

Comforted

Will be filled

Will see God

Called sons of God

Inherit the earth

Kingdom of heaven

Kingdom of heaven

Be shown mercy

Rewards are the result of what you do with your life. Use the consonant letter bank to discover the results of a God-filled life.

Word Bank

FFHHHHLLLLMMNNPPPP
RRRRSSSSSSSTTTTWWWW

"A _ A _ _ EA _ _ _ A _ _ E _ _ O _ _

_ _ _ E O _ E _ _ O _ _ O _ _ O _ _ EA _ _ E

_ _ _ E _ _ _ | _ _ | _ _ , _ _ _ O _ _ _ E _ _ _ | _ _ | _ _

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Galatians 6:7b-8