
Forward

This book contains lessons from the Sermon on the Mount in the book of Matthew. Your students will learn what it means to be a citizen of God's kingdom. They will come to desire the godly attitudes that bring us inner happiness and special rewards. And, they will be encouraged to be Salt and Light to the world. That is, to live their lives in such a way that they make a positive impact on the people around them so that more people will come to know God.

I have designed these lessons to enable you to teach the Bible expositionally. The idea is to have the kids read the passages in their own Bibles and the teacher explain the scriptures and give good practical applications that are age-appropriate. My goal is to ensure that children learn that God's Word is exciting and meaningful and that teachers teach sound doctrine!

Even though I've scripted the lessons, I don't expect teachers to read my lesson materials verbatim to the children as they teach. My lessons are meant to provide the details you need to get background information and some suggestions for child-oriented personal application. Once you know and understand the Bible lessons for yourself, you'll be ready to teach your class.

The two-column layout of this book is designed so that you can copy and cut the pages in half to fit into your Bible. When the children observe that you are teaching right out of the Bible, rather than from a curriculum book, it validates God's Word and gives your teaching more authority.

You will discover that there is not always a Craft or Game idea suggested in each lesson. When I've had a good idea that really seems to support the lesson objectives, I've included it. But I have another handbook called *Tips and Tricks — Making Children's Bible Lessons Come to Life* that gives lots of suggestions for activities that will help reinforce your lesson and teach the memory verse. (This is available from my website:

<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com/>)

Use the Teaching Schedule to help you organize your teaching rotation.

I pray that you will use these lessons for God's glory by teaching the Bible as an entire plan by a systematic and connected study of the Word.

Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. (Mark 10:14)

Sheila Scroggins

Sheila has had over 35 years' experience in teaching children and has several other lesson series available. You may contact her by eMail at: ccuv-ChildrensMinistry@usa.net for more information.

Table of Contents

Lesson 1: Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit (Matthew 5:3) 1

Lesson 2: Blessed Are Those Who Mourn (Matthew 5:4) 5

Lesson 3: Blessed Are the Meek (Matthew 5:5)..... 9

Lesson 4: Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness (Matthew 5:6)..... 13

Lesson 5: Blessed Are the Merciful (Matthew 5:7) 19

Lesson 6: Blessed Are the Pure in Heart (Matthew 5:8)..... 27

Lesson 7: Blessed Are the Peacemakers (Matthew 5:9)..... 31

Lesson 8: Blessed Are Those Who are Persecuted for Righteousness (Matthew 5:10-12)..... 35

Lesson 9: You are Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16) 41

Teaching Schedule

Date	Teacher	Lesson	Memory Verse
		Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit (Matthew 5:3)	<i>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3)</i>
		Blessed Are Those Who Mourn (Matthew 5:4)	<i>Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)</i>
		Blessed Are the Meek (Matthew 5:5)	<i>Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)</i>
		Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness (Matthew 5:6)	<i>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6)</i>
		Blessed Are the Merciful (Matthew 5:7)	<i>Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. (Matthew 5:7)</i>
		Blessed Are the Pure In Heart (Matthew 5:8)	<i>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8)</i>
		Blessed Are the Peacemakers (Matthew 5:9)	<i>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matthew 5:9)</i>
		Blessed Are Those Who are Persecuted for Righteousness (Matthew 5:10-12)	<i>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:10)</i>
		You Are Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)	<i>You are the salt of the earth.... You are the light of the world. (Matthew 5:13-14)</i>

Poor in Spirit

(Matthew 5:3)

Introduction

Do you like to be happy? What makes you happy? [Teacher, lead the children in a discussion about happiness.] Does candy make you happy? Does the thought of eating chocolate make you say to yourself, “*Oh boy, this will really make me happy*”? [Teacher, give each child a chocolate candy.]

What happens when you swallow the candy and the taste is gone? Is there kind of a letdown? Do you want another candy?

Candy doesn't keep us happy forever, does it? But there is Someone who does.

God gives lasting happiness. Not just laughter and pleasure when everything is going right, but peace and hope that brings joy to you even when times are hard.

Did you know that when Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment that you and I deserve for all our naughty acts? Now when we die, we can go to Heaven. We don't have to be punished for our sins! Doesn't that give you a deep sense of peace and joy? Doesn't that make you want to please God back for all the wonderful things He's done for you? When we do things that we know please God, it gives us a sense of satisfaction, peace, and joy. Today we begin a series of lessons that will teach us how to please God with our attitudes.

Opening Prayer

Lord, sometimes I wake up in the morning with a bad attitude. But Lord, I know that it ruins my whole day. Teach us this morning how to have a truly happy life. Help us to learn how to have the kinds of attitudes that please You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
(Matthew 5:3)*

Lesson

Jesus wanted His disciples to know how they could find true happiness. So, He took them up on a mountain, away from everybody and privately taught them what we call *the Sermon on the Mount*. Here's how it starts...

Matthew 5:1-12

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

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

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

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

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

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

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

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

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Notice that each verse in this passage begins with the word “*blessed*.” *Blessed* is another word for “*happy*”.

We call this section in the Scripture “*The Beatitudes*.”

[Teacher, lead the children in a discussion about attitudes using the following questions:]

- Do you know what an *attitude* is? (An attitude is the way we show people how we think or feel about something.)

- What makes us have a bad attitude?
- What makes us have a good attitude?
- Do you think God knows about our attitudes?
- What do you think makes God happy?
- Does it make you happy to please God?

There is a special kind of happiness that comes when we know that God is pleased with our attitudes. Jesus wanted us to know how to please God, that's why he gave us the beatitudes. I call them "*Be-Attitudes*" because they are attitudes that ought to be in our hearts.

Let's see what kind of attitudes really please God.

Read Matthew 5:3 and substitute the word "Blessed" with "Happy:"

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

If this kind of attitude pleases God, let's try to understand what Jesus was saying here.

What does "*poor*" mean? (To be *poor* is to lack something you need. You are "*needy*.") What do you think it means to be *poor in spirit*? (It means you're lacking something spiritually; you're missing something to give you a deep sense of peace and joy in your heart.)

Sin separates us from God. When you realize you are a sinner, you are admitting you are *poor in spirit*—that you have spiritual need; you have a hunger in your heart to make God happy. That's when you are ready to ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins. He is the only one who can satisfy that hunger in your heart to make God happy.

When you ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins, the Scripture says you become a child of God. That's when you know that you can go be with God in Heaven when you die.

That's why this verse says, "*for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*"

Knowing that you are *poor in spirit* is the beginning of your walk with God.

It's also important to never forget that we are *poor in spirit*. Always remember that we depend on what Jesus did for us on the cross to be received into Heaven.

Closing Prayer

Lord, we want to live a happy life and we want You to be happy with us. Help us to always remember how much we need You. We want to come running to You when we know we have done something wrong. We want to be quick to confess our sins so that we can be made right again in Your eyes. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Bulletin Board. Use the Bulletin Board idea on the next page and the Bee pattern from page 12. Copy a bee for each child. Talk to the children about the types of attitudes that please God. Let each child write a godly attitude (such as humility, gentleness, desire to do right, compassion, forgiveness, kindness, blameless, peacemaker, etc.) on a bee and mount it on the bulletin board. Add colorful flowers and a decorative border. As an alternative you could make a bee for each beatitude.

Game Center

Hang Man. Play *Hangman* with these words:

- Disciples
- Heaven
- Poor in spirit

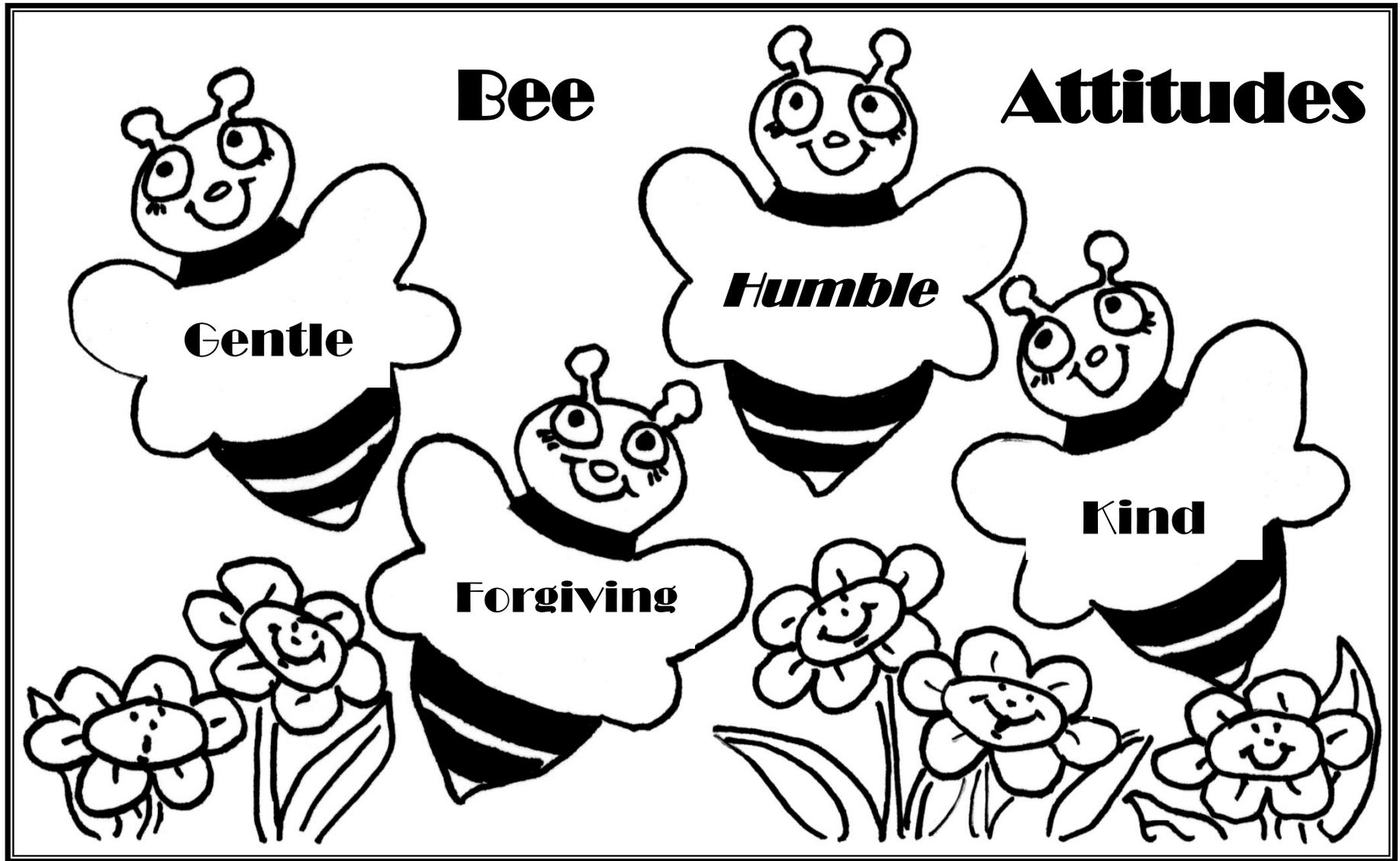
- Kingdom of God

Or, use the following questions in another game of your choice:

1. What does the word “blessed” mean? (Happy)
2. What is a beatitude? (A beatitude is the blessing you get from God when you have the kind of attitudes that please Him.)
3. What is the first beatitude? (Matthew 5:3)
4. What does “poor” mean? (You’re needy)
5. What does “poor in spirit” mean? (You’re spiritually needy)
6. Why does it please God when we realize that we are poor in spirit? (We realize our need for Jesus to save us from getting punished for our sins.)
7. What is your reward for knowing you are poor in spirit? (The kingdom of heaven)
8. How often should you remember that you are poor in spirit? (Always, because you should never want to forget how much you need Jesus)

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Bulletin Board Idea



Bee

Attitudes

Gentle

Humble

Kind

Forgiving

Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

(Matthew 5:4)

Introduction

What makes you sad? (Not getting something you really want?) [Teacher, lead the children in a discussion.] Have you ever felt a deep pain in your heart when something really sad happened?

Last week we talked about what makes us truly happy and we discovered that it helps to have a godly attitude. This week we're going to talk about what makes us truly sad.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we truly want to live a happy life. And, we want You to be well pleased with everything that we think, say, and do. This morning, I pray, that You will teach us just how to please You with our attitudes. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)

Lesson

Last week we started a study in the Sermon on the Mount. The first 12 verses are called *The Beatitudes*. Who remembers 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. Jesus came to earth to teach us these things so that we could live happy and fulfilled lives. So, it's important for us to understand His teachings.

Jesus gave us 8 beatitudes, each beginning with the word *blessed*.

[Teacher, look at the passage with the children and point out how each verse starts with the word, "blessed."]

Does anyone remember what the word "blessed" means? ("Blessed" means "happy.") A person that is *blessed* is favored by God and receives a special kindness from Him.

Last week we looked at the **first** beatitude.

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.*"

Today, let's look at the **second** beatitude.

Matthew 5:4

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

If this kind of attitude pleases God, let's try to understand what Jesus was saying here.

What does "*mourn*" mean? The word "*mourn*" means to be extremely sad over something; to grieve, like how you would feel if someone you love died.

What Jesus is saying here is that it really pleases God when you grieve over your own sin. It hurts God when we are naughty and He wants us to truly feel sorry for hurting Him.

Do you know who David was in the Old Testament? Well, he was a very special person to God. In fact, God called him *a man after God's own heart*. But did you know that David did a really horrible thing? He killed a man because he wanted to marry that man's wife.

That was a very serious sin. Did you know that any sin we commit offends God? It's like slapping God right in the face.

Why do you think that God called David *a man after God's own heart* if he murdered a man? It was because David was truly sorry for his sin. He didn't try to cover it up; he cried out to God for mercy. Listen to what the Bible tells us David prayed.

Psalm 51 [Teacher, read...]

Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. (2) Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. (3) For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. (4) Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. (5) For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. (6) But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. (7) Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. (8) Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. (9) Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. (10) Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. (11) Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. (12) Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. (13) Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you. (14) Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves; then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness. (15) Unseal my lips, O Lord, that my mouth may praise you. (16) You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. (17) The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God. (18) Look with favor on Zion and help her; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. (19) Then you will be pleased with sacrifices offered in the right spirit—with burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings. Then bulls will again be sacrificed on your altar. (NLT)

Do you think that David's sin of murder is worse than anything you have ever done? Jesus said that if you get angry at your brother or sister, it's as if you have murdered that person in your heart.

God is holy and pure. He cannot have anything that is not holy and pure in His presence. So, sin separates us from God. But, as we learned last week, when you realize that you are "*poor in spirit*" and

ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins, the Scripture says you become a child of God. That's when you know that you can go be with God in Heaven when you die. That's why the first beatitude says, "*for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*"

This week we learn that when we are truly sorry over our sin, like David was, God is quick to forgive us. The Scripture says, "*For they shall be comforted.*"

Knowing that you are poor in spirit is the beginning of your walk with God. Next, we need to remember that no sin is too great to ask God to forgive it.

Sin separates us from God. But God wants us to be close to Him. That's why He's so willing to forgive you. He's just waiting for you to come running to Him whenever you know you've done something naughty. Like David, whenever we sin, we must ask God to cleanse us from within, cleansing our hearts and spirits with new thoughts and desires.

The promise in today's verse is that if you are truly sorry when you sin, God *will* comfort you and give you back your joy.

Closing Prayer

Lord, we know that it makes You very, very sad when we are naughty. We want to please You with the things that we think and say and do. Pierce our hearts each time we sin, so that we may grieve over it. Drive us to You, Lord, so that we might come and confess our sins and get cleansed by You. We want to always be in good standing before You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Centers

Craft Corner

Game Center

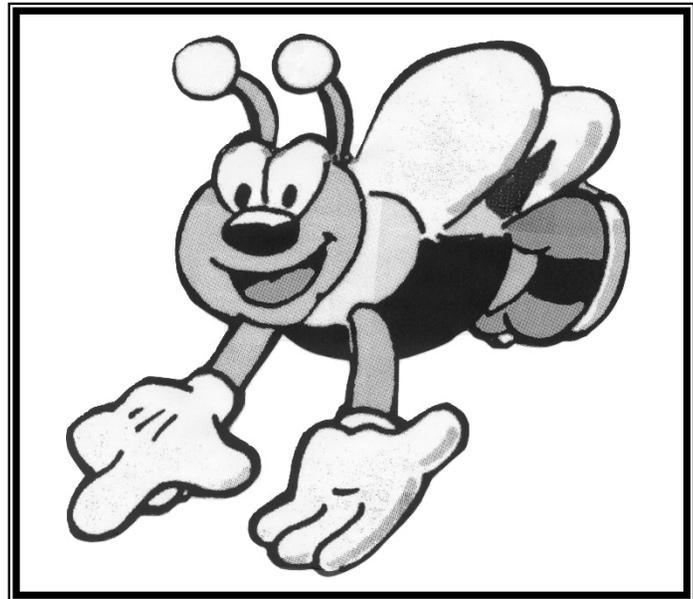
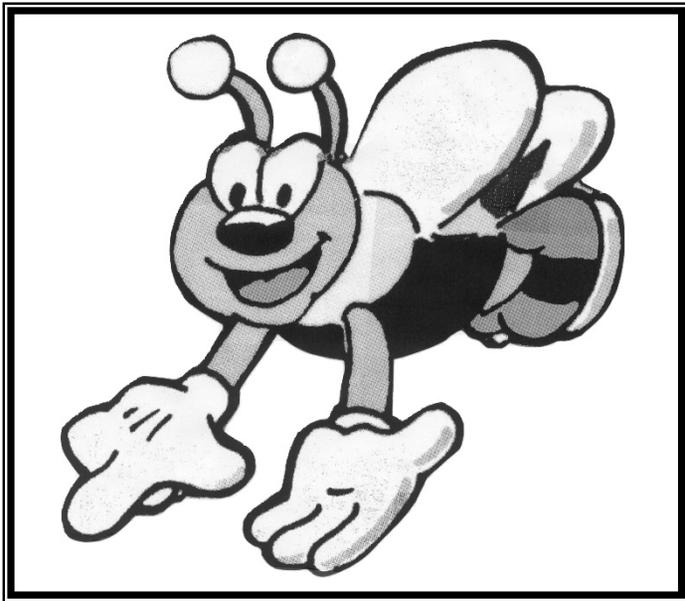
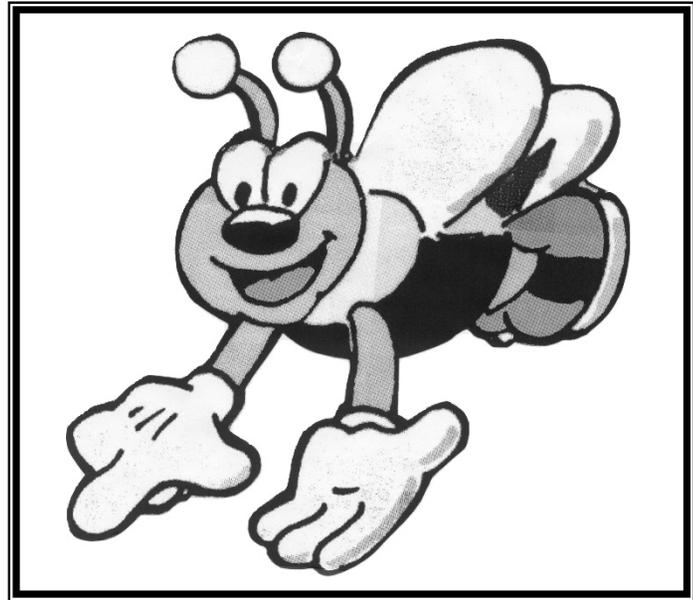
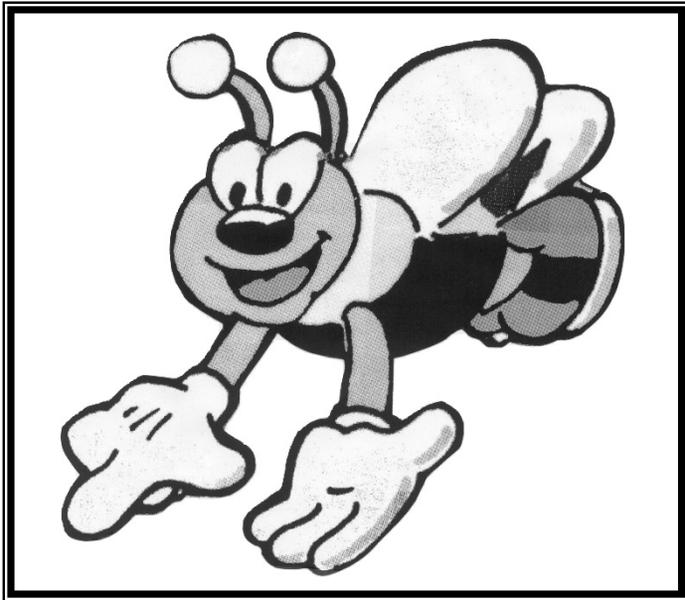
Relay Race. Print each word or word phrase of Matthew 5:4 on a separate large-sized sticky note. Make a set for each team or child in the class. Have a race to see which team can unscramble the verse the fastest. Give a chocolate candy to the winners. (Repeat this several times.)

Make “Bee” cards to hand out for correct answers to the review questions. (See pattern on next page.) The person with the most “bees” gets to pick something from the treasure box.

Or, use the following questions in another game of your choice:

1. What is a beatitude? (A beatitude is the blessing you get from God when you have the kind of attitudes that please Him.)
2. What is the first beatitude? (Matthew 5:3—this is open book!)
3. What is the second beatitude? (Matthew 5:4)
4. What does the word “*mourn*” mean? (To be extremely sad over something.)
5. Why was David called the *apple of God’s eye*? (He was truly sorry for his sins.)
6. What should you do if you sin? (Confess it to God.)
7. What will you receive from God if you mourn over your sin? (Comfort)
8. The beatitudes tell us about the kinds of attitudes that please God and that will make us truly happy. Why will you be happy if you mourn? (God will comfort your heart.)

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]



Blessed Are the Meek

(Matthew 5:5)

Introduction

Do you ever get angry when you don't get your way? Do you ever want to be first or get the best for yourself? How about when there's a great big gooey chocolate cake? Do you ever want the biggest piece? How about when you're taking turns playing a fun game, do you ever want to be first?

How about if you were punched in the nose, would you want to hit back? What do you think God would want you to do?

Opening Prayer

Lord, we want to learn how to be happy and how to get along well with our friends and our family. Teach us this morning how to honor others more than ourselves. We want to be well-pleasing in Your eyes. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)

Lesson

God wants us to be happy and to get along well with our friends and family. So, He sent Jesus to teach us how to live a peaceful and happy life.

One day Jesus was up on a hill teaching a great crowd of people including His disciples. He was explaining what kinds of attitudes we ought to have. We have His teaching written down for us in the Bible, God's Word, in the book of Matthew. Open your Bibles to Matthew 5. This section is called *The Beatitudes* and it's in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

Review

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. Who knows what an *attitude* is? It's a way we show how we think or feel about something. Jesus was telling the crowd that when we allow God to shape our thinking or feelings, we will be blessed.

[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.]

What does "*blessed*" mean? (*Happy*) The beatitudes give us 9 ways that we can be truly blessed by God or made happy.

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 promise in this beatitude? God comforts us! God promises to forgive everyone who confesses their sins and to restore them to right standing before Him.

And now today we'll be looking at the **third** beatitude,

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)

Does anyone know what the word "*meek*" means? Meek means to have a modest opinion of yourself; not thinking you are more important than other people.

Being meek is far different from being weak. To be meek is to be gentle and humble. You have to choose to be meek, and this takes great strength of character. To be meek means to stop putting ourselves before others; to stop demanding our way. And it means that we accept bad situations and make the best of them.

Have you ever met a humble person? What was he like? Have you ever been around someone who is a "know-it-all?" They seem cocky, don't they? I don't like to be around someone who is always thinking of themselves and trying to impress people, do you?

What is the promised blessing in this beatitude? 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.

So, we could read this verse like this, "*Happy are the humble for they shall appreciate the world around them.*"

Closing Prayer

Lord, we don't want to be self-centered and cocky because we want others to like us *and* we want others to come to know You because of our good attitudes in life. Help us to always be humble so that we won't miss out all the beautiful things You have for us in this world. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Centers

Craft Corner

Game Center

Concentration. Make 14 "Bee" cards using the pattern from the last lesson. Print the beatitude on the back. Make 2 cards for each beatitude (poor in spirit, mourn, meek, hunger and thirst, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers.) For a correct answer, a student may turn over two cards. If the messages match, remove them. If they don't match put them back in the same places. The child or team with the most matches wins.

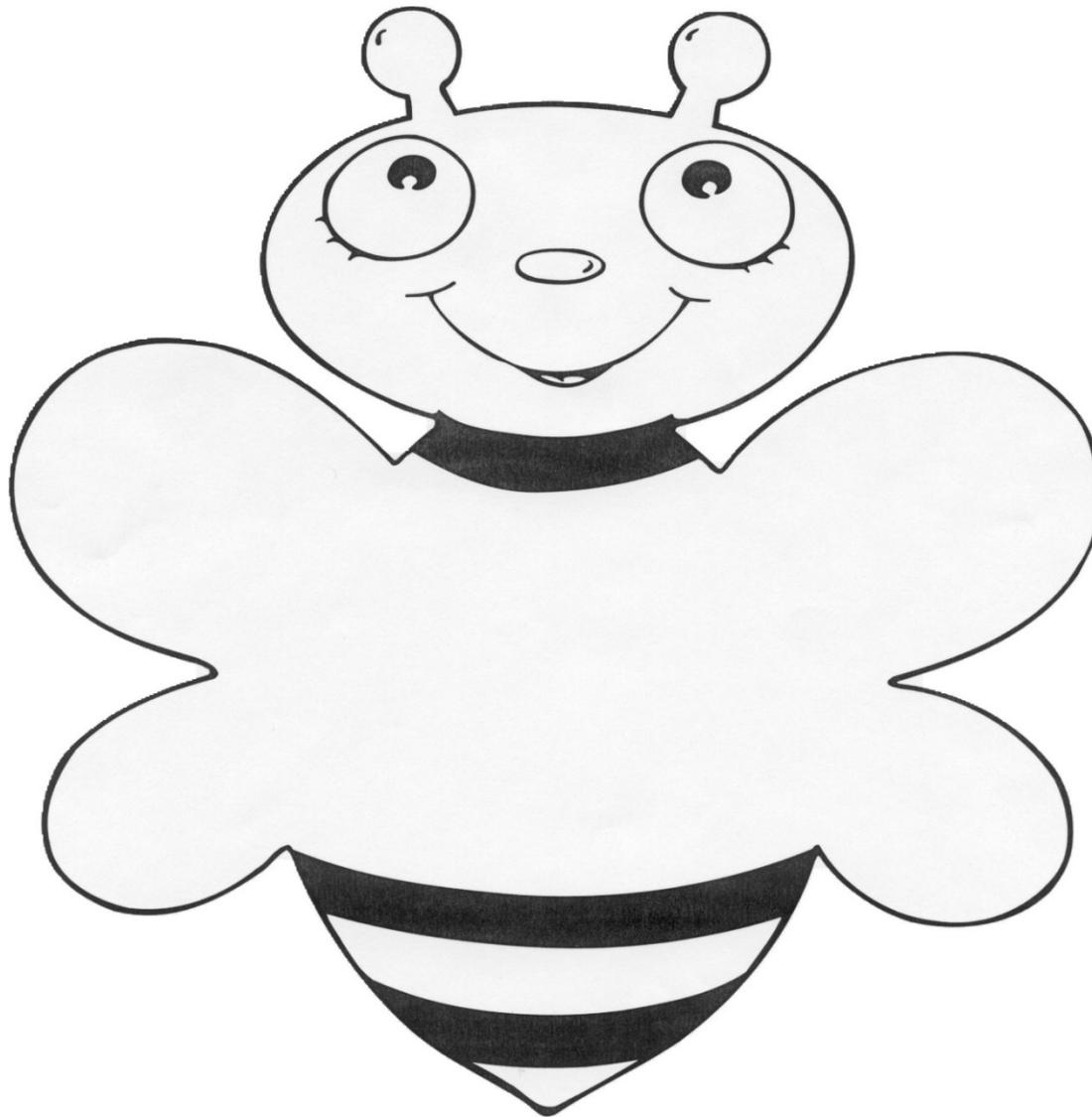
Or use the following questions in another game of your choice:

1. What is an attitude? (It's a way we show how we think or feel about something.)
2. What are the beatitudes? (A beatitude is the blessing you get from God when you have the kind of attitudes that please Him.)
3. What will happen to us if we allow God to shape our thinking or feelings? (We'll be blessed or made happy.)
4. What does the first beatitude mean, "*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven?*" (Happy are those who know they are spiritually dead without Jesus because once they realize that, and accept Him, they become children of God and get to go to Heaven when they die.)
5. What does the second beatitude mean, "*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted?*" (Happy are those who are truly sorry about their sins because God promises to forgive everyone who confesses their sins and to restore them to right standing before Him.)

6. What is the third beatitude? (*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*)
7. What does the word "meek" mean? (To be gentle or humble.)
8. If you are meek does that mean you are weak or strong? (Strong! It takes great strength of character to be gentle and humble.)
9. Are you naturally a meek person, or do you have to choose to be meek? (You have to choose to be meek.)
10. Can you describe a way you can be meek? (Stop putting ourselves first, stop demanding our way, accepting bad situations and make the best of them, enduring an injury with patience and without resentment.)
11. Can you remember a time when you've found it hard to be meek?
12. What can you do this week to be meek?

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Bee Pattern



Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

(Matthew 5:6)

Introduction

Have you ever been so hungry that you felt you could not wait until time for dinner? Or so thirsty that you felt you must have a cold drink right now? Some people have those same cravings for the things of this world. Some people think money will satisfy. Others think they need pleasure.

But, have you ever noticed that even if you eat to the point that you hurt, you always get hungry again? And, you never seem to have enough money or time to do fun things. That's the problem with earthly things, they never really satisfy you permanently.

Just as your body needs food and water, the inner you (your soul and spirit) needs something to satisfy it, too. Jesus says the only thing that can satisfy your inner hunger and thirst is righteousness, that is, doing right.

Opening Prayer

Father, help us as we continue to study the types of attitudes that You want us to have. Teach us this morning about what it means to hunger and thirst for righteousness. Give us all a earnest desire to please You with our thoughts, words, and our actions. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6)

Lesson

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. Jesus came to earth to teach us these things so that we could live happy and fulfilled lives. So, it's important for us to understand His teachings.

Let's review the beatitudes we have learned about 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.

And now today we'll be looking at the **fourth** beatitude,

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." (Matthew 5:6)

Let's try to understand what Jesus is telling us here. We know what it is to be hungry and thirsty for food, but what is "*righteousness*?" If you are righteous, you are doing what is good and right in God's eyes. So, what Jesus is saying here is that you will be happy if you hunger and thirst after doing what is right and good. That is, if you really earnestly desire to do the proper thing.

You could say the verse this way, "*Happy are those who long to be just and good for they shall be completely satisfied.*"

What is the blessing God promises in today's beatitude? (*To be filled* — complete satisfaction deep down in our heart and soul.) It makes you feel really good to be good and to do right, doesn't it?

Do you really want to do right? You need to know how to hunger and thirst after righteousness. How do you know what the right thing to do is? If you hunger and thirst after righteousness, you will read God's Word and pray. You'll enjoy being with other Christians in church and Sunday school. As you seek God and do right, you will be filled with great inner satisfaction; you will be blessed with true happiness.

But, only Jesus can help you do all these things. When we receive Him, He gives us His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21), and then He gives us the power to live right. When Jesus died on the cross,

He took the punishment for all our sins. He took our spanking, so to speak, and erased our sins. This makes us right before God. God sees us as righteous. And then when Jesus ascended into Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in us. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to make the right choices to do the right things in life.

Have you ever been tempted to cheat on a test or to lie about something? Did the Holy Spirit speak to your heart about that being a wrong thing to do? Right at that point in time you had a choice: you could either do the right thing or go with your other idea. Did you know that sometimes those other ideas can come from the devil? We need to learn to listen to the still small voice of God who is constantly helping us to make the right choices in life. He speaks to us not in our ear, but into our hearts. People who don't know Jesus, can't hear His voice.

Being "*filled*" by doing right gives you lasting happiness because you know you are in the center of God's will.

Closing Prayer

Lord, when we look around us in this world, we see so many things that are just not fair. We long for the day when we live with You in Heaven where everything is going to be perfect. I pray that You will come quickly, Lord, and make everything on this earth as it is in Heaven. In the meantime, please help us to hunger and thirst to do what is right and good. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Centers

Craft Corner

Game Center

Beatitude Bingo. Call out the words, one-by-one. If a child has that word he places a marker over it. The first child to get a row of markers in any direction is the winner.

Make Bingo cards using the card pattern on page 17 and the following words:

Beatitude	Blessed	Called Sons of God
Comforted	Compassion	Earth
Grieve	Happy	Hunger & Thirst
Inherit the earth	Jesus	Kingdom of Heaven
Meek	Merciful	Mourn
Obtain Mercy	Peacemakers	Persecuted
Poor in Spirit	Pure in heart	Rejoice
Reward in Heaven	Righteousness	Shall be Filled
Shall See God		

Or, use the following questions in another game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What's an attitude? (A way we show others what we're thinking or feeling.)
2. What's a beatitude? (A beatitude is the blessing you get from God when you have the kind of attitudes that please Him.)
3. What's righteousness? (Doing right; making the right choices)
4. What does it mean to "*hunger and thirst after righteousness*?" (To earnestly desire to do what is right in God's eyes.)
5. How do you eat and drink of righteousness? (Pray, read your Bible, obey, tell others about Jesus, and go to church.)

6. Who helps you make the right choices so that you can be righteous? And, how does He help you? (The Holy Spirit speaks to your heart.)
7. Where do we get ideas about doing wrong things? (Satan, friends, TV, movies)
8. How does God speak to you? (Not in your ear, but in a still small voice in your heart when you read His word.)
9. Has God ever spoken to you?
10. What is the blessing God promises in today's beatitude? (To be filled)
11. What does it mean to be filled? (To have complete satisfaction deep in our hearts and souls)
12. What can you do this next week to hunger and thirst after righteousness? (Pray, read your Bible, obey, tell others about Jesus, and go to church)

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Beatitude BINGO

The following card is an example. Use the blank on the next page to create your own Bingo cards.

Poor in Spirit	Kingdom of Heaven	Mourn	Comforted	Meek
Inherit the Earth	Hunger and Thirst	Shall be Filled	Merciful	Obtain Mercy
Pure in Heart	Shall See God	FREE	Peacemakers	Called Sons of God
Persecuted	Blessed	Beatitude	Rejoice	Reward in Heaven
Jesus	Righteousness	Happy	Compassion	Grieve

Enter words at random into the spaces to create unique Bingo cards for each player. Copy each card onto a different colored card stock and laminate them for future use.

		FREE		

Blessed Are the Merciful

(Matthew 5:7)

Introduction

Today we're going to learn about *mercy*. Who knows what mercy is? (To be full of compassion for someone in distress.)

Here's an example: Have you ever done anything embarrassing in front of people? Has anyone ever made you feel dumb because they laughed at you when you made a mistake? Was that merciful? (No!) What would be the merciful thing for someone to do? (Have compassion and try to comfort you)

Here's another example: What kind of punishment do you get when you do something naughty? Have you ever done something really bad that you know you deserved punishment for but your mom or dad let you get off without punishment? We call that mercy — not getting what you deserve.

[Teacher, write definition on board: *Mercy — not getting what you deserve.*]

Mercy is a kind of attitude God wants us to have towards other people.

Opening Prayer

Lord, You are full of compassion towards us. We want to learn how to be like You so that we can make our friends feel good. We want them to know that it's You that gives us the ability to love them, too. So, give us teachable hearts this morning. Help us to listen with our spiritual ears so that we won't miss the lesson You have for us out of the Scriptures this morning. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. (Matthew 5:7)

Lesson

Turn to Matthew 5 in your Bibles. Who can remember what we've been studying the last 4 weeks? 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. Jesus came to earth to teach us these things so that we could live happy and fulfilled lives. So, it's important for us to understand His teachings.

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.

And now today we'll be looking at the **fifth** beatitude,

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. (Matthew 5:7)

If you truly want to be happy in life, you need to understand what God is saying here. So again, what does *merciful* mean? (To be full of compassion for someone in distress and not give them what they deserve.) The merciful are those who forgive others and show them kindness even if they are wrong. The merciful unselfishly reach out to help others in need. They don't look down on others or condemn them. The merciful don't keep track of wrong things others do.

Do you know anyone like that? Have you ever been merciful? What are some ways you can be merciful?

Being merciful may mean giving some of your allowance to a poor family, being a friend to someone that others in your neighborhood laugh at, or being patient with your baby brother when he breaks one of your toys.

To show mercy also means to not punish someone when he deserves it. Do you know anyone who deserves to be punished, but instead gets mercy? (We do!) The Lord Jesus took the punishment for your sin and mine when He died on the cross. Don't you think we should show mercy to others because He has been merciful to us?

Once you receive Him (that is, believe in what He did for you on the cross), He will help you to be merciful to others less fortunate than you and to those who hurt or disappoint you.

What is the promise to you if you are merciful to someone? God promises a special blessing to the merciful: they will receive mercy in one way or another (2 Samuel 22:26; Ecclesiastes 11:1). So, if you show mercy, don't be surprised when others are merciful to you!

Next time someone does something wrong to you and it's "*pay back*" time, remember what the Lord has done for you. It will help you to be a little more understanding and forgiving. As you allow God to control your thoughts and attitudes, He will bless you big time.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for reminding us this morning just how loving and compassionate You have been towards us. We want to show mercy to others because You have shown us mercy. Help us to be more understanding and forgiving of our friends and family. And, as we treat people the way You have treated us, cause them to want to know You better. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Centers

Craft Corner

Game Center

Have the children work on the *Beatitude Matching* worksheets or send them home as “take home” papers.

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What is a beatitude? (A beatitude is the blessing you get from God when you have the kind of attitudes that please Him.)
2. What is the blessing God promises in today’s beatitude? (Mercy)
3. What is mercy? (To be full of compassion to someone in distress.)
4. Describe a merciful person? What are some ways you can be merciful? (Giving food to a poor family, being a friend to someone others laugh at, being patient with someone that bothers you, etc.)
5. How have you been merciful?
6. Has anyone ever been merciful to you? Did you ever NOT get punished when you deserved it?
7. How has the Lord been merciful to you? (He took the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross, so now we don’t have to be punished for our sins.)

8. Are you just naturally merciful or do you have to choose to be merciful? (Choose! And it takes great strength of character to make godly choices.)
9. What are some of the other attitudes God wants us to have towards other people besides mercy? (See the other beatitudes we’ve studied so far)
 - Poor in Spirit — To know that we need Jesus
 - Mourn — To grieve over our sins
 - Meek — To have personal humility
 - Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness — To earnestly desire to do what is right.

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Match the Attitude with the Meaning

(Draw a line to connect the attitude with the meaning)

Poor in Spirit

Earnestly Desire to do What is Right

Mourn

Don't Give What's Deserved

Meek

Grieve Over Our Sins

Hunger and Thirst
for Righteousness

Personal Humility

Merciful

Know That We Need Jesus

Match the Attitude with the Blessing

(Draw a line to connect the attitude with the promised blessing)

Poor in Spirit

Filled (or Satisfied)

Mourn

Mercy

Meek

Kingdom of Heaven

Hunger and Thirst
for Righteousness

Comfort

Merciful

Inherit the Earth

Circle the Correct Answers

1. Blessed are the (rich, poor, happy) in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of (Satan, God, Heaven). (Matthew 5:3)
2. (Sad, Sleepy, Happy) are those who mourn, for they shall be (filled, obtain mercy, comforted). (Matthew 5:4)
3. Blessed are the (weak, strong, meek), for they shall inherit (the earth, money, a house). (Matthew 5:5)
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for (righteousness, food, money), for they shall be (rich, happy, filled). (Matthew 5:6)
5. Blessed are the (merciful, mean, unforgiving) for they shall obtain (money, mercy, food). (Matthew 5:7)

Fill in the Blanks

1. To know we are “poor in spirit” is to realize we ___ ___ ___ ___ Jesus.
2. God will comfort us if we are truly ___ ___ ___ ___ for our sins.
3. Mercy is NOT getting what we ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ .

Decode the Secret Words

Use this secret code to find the secret words below:

A	B	X	Δ	E	Φ	Γ	H	I	Θ	K	Λ	M	N	O	Π	Θ	P	Σ	T	Y	ς	Ω	Ξ	Ψ	Z
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Decode these secret words:

B Δ E Σ Σ E Δ

B E A T I T Y Δ E

M E P X I Φ Y Λ

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

(Matthew 5:8)

Introduction

Have you ever done something wrong, but kept it a secret? How did you feel inside? Did you feel guilty? If you know you are guilty — if you know you broke a rule and you deserve to be punished — but you keep it a secret, your guilt can make you physically sick. It can give you a headache or make you sick to your stomach. If you don't do something about your guilt, it can make you bitter and angry. Sometimes if you're holding guilt in your heart it can make you cranky. You'll snap at people for no reason at all and it's hard to sleep at night. You'll toss and turn.

What do you think you should do with your guilt? You can't keep it a secret. You have to tell someone. The best Person to tell is God. Then you have to tell your parents or teacher. Once you confess your sin and receive forgiveness for it, you can relax. You'll feel happy again and you can get a good night's rest. We call that having a "*clean heart*."

Opening Prayer

Lord, we want our lives to be shining examples for our friends and family of Your perfect way for us to live happy and fulfilled lives. Teach us this morning how important it is for us to keep our hearts pure. Give us the desire in our hearts to always be well pleasing to You, O Lord. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8)

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 in order 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.) What does the word *blessed* mean? (Happy)

Jesus taught that if we have certain attitudes, we will 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 in *The Beatitudes*?

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)

Today we will study the **sixth** beatitude. Who can read Matthew 5:8 for us?

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

If you truly want to be happy in life, you need to understand what God is saying here. What do you think "*pure in heart*" means? (Blameless, guilt free, right motives, without deceit.) God wants us to be innocent of all wrong doing, not to have bad thoughts about people, or to think up ways to be mean to others.

What is the blessing that God promises in this beatitude? (Jesus promises that those who allow Him to cleanse them from their sin *shall see God.*) When this life is over, we will know the perfect happiness of living in God's presence forever. That is an awesome promise. So, we need to understand what Jesus is teaching here.

God desires us to have clean hearts. In fact, it's impossible for us to come into Heaven without clean hearts. God is perfect; He cannot tolerate sin in His presence. But there's a big problem. We are sinners by nature. (Romans 3:23, "*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*")

Not a day goes by that we don't do something wrong. Jesus said that if you've ever been angry at someone, it's as if you murdered him in your heart.

Can you clean your own heart? (No!) God knows that we cannot make our own hearts clean (Proverbs 20:9; 1 John 1:7). So, God came up with a wonderful plan — He came to earth in the form of Jesus.

Who knows what He did to solve the problem? (He took our punishment for us.) When Jesus died on the cross, He satisfied God's requirement for us to pay for our sins, so now we don't have to. But in order to receive this wonderful gift of life from God, we really have to believe that Jesus paid the price of our sin in full. Do you? Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive you for your sins? Have you thanked Him for what He did for you? [Lead in sinner's prayer.]

How do you keep your heart pure as you live day-by-day? When you do wrong, confess your sin to God. (1 John 1:9). Stay close to Him by reading His Word and talking with Him in prayer. When your

heart is pure, you will be able to "see" God working in your every-day life.

It is God living in your heart that helps you have all these godly attitudes.

Closing Prayer

Father, when we do something that we know is displeasing to You, we don't want to hold the knowledge of our sin in our hearts. We want to be quick to come running to You to confess our sins. That way we can have clean hearts and we can live happy lives. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Centers

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What is the attitude you're supposed to have in today's beatitude? (Pure in heart)
2. What is the blessing God promises if you are pure in heart? (We'll see God)
3. What's a pure heart? (A blameless heart with no wrong intentions, that has good thoughts.)
4. How do you get a pure heart? (Ask God to control your attitudes and to forgive you of your sins)

5. How do you get to Heaven? (Believe that Jesus paid the penalty for my sins.)
6. Can you get to Heaven if you don't believe that Jesus paid with His life? (No!)
7. What is sin? (Doing anything that displeases God)
8. How do you know what pleases and displeases God? (Study the Bible, pray, listen for the voice of God in your heart. The Holy Spirit will lead you and give you directions for life if you learn to listen for His voice. He speaks into your heart.)
9. Can you clean your own heart? (No! Only Jesus can do that!)
10. How do you keep your heart pure as you live day-by-day? (Confess your sin to God.)

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<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]

Blessed are the Peacemakers

(Matthew 5:9)

Introduction

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.

[For more lessons for children, visit
<https://www.freechildrensministrylessons.com>]



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 _ _ | _ | _

_ | _ _ _ EA _ _ E _ E _ _ A _ _ | _ E."

Blessed Are Those Who are Persecuted for Righteousness Sake

(Matthew 5:10-12)

Introduction

Has anyone ever laughed at you because you wanted to do the "right" thing or to be good or honest? Has anyone tried to make you feel weird for not wanting to laugh at a dirty joke or join in a mean trick? Have you ever been made fun of because you are a Christian?

The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 3:12, "*All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*" That is, they will be treated harshly or cruelly. This is a promise! You can expect it to happen sometime in your life.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we really truly want to live happy and peaceful lives. Show us this morning just how to do that. Help us to learn all that You have to teach us from the Scriptures this morning. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:10)

Lesson

This is the final lesson in *The Beatitudes*. For the past 8 weeks we've been learning what it takes to be a truly happy person. 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. So, let's open our Bibles to Matthew 5 and look at the Scriptures together.

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.]

Godly Attitudes

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

#	Attitude	Meaning
1.	Poor in Spirit	Know that we are spiritually bankrupt and need Jesus. (Lasting happiness begins when we receive Jesus as Savior.)
2.	Mourn	Grieve over our sins; ask forgiveness
3.	Meek	Personal humility (gentleness)
4.	Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness	Earnestly desire to do what is right
5.	Mercy	Have compassion, forgiveness, kindness towards others

#	Attitude	Meaning
6.	Pure in Heart	Blameless, guilt free
7.	Peacemaker	Make peace with God, parents, friends

Promised Blessings

What are the blessings God promises in each of the beatitudes we've studied so far?

#	Blessing	Meaning
1.	The Kingdom of Heaven	We learned that God is really pleased with us when we know that we are " <i>poor in spirit</i> " (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, " <i>for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</i> "
2.	Comfort	We learned that this means that we will be truly happy if we are sincerely sorry about our sins, because God promises to forgive everyone who confesses their sins and to restore them to right standing before Him.

3.	The Earth (Appreciation for your life here on earth: your health, friends, family, fresh air and sunshine, etc.)	We learned that when we stop trying to be the center of attention, we begin to take our eyes off of ourselves, we start enjoying the beauty and the bounty of the earth around us, then we get the most out of life. And, we look forward to being with Jesus in the life to come.
4.	To be Filled (Complete satisfaction deep down in our heart and soul)	We learned that earnestly desiring to do what is right gives us lasting happiness because you know you are in the center of God's will.
5.	Mercy	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)
6.	See God	We learned that if we have a pure heart, we'll get to live in the presence of God forever in Heaven.
7.	Called sons of God.	We learned that when we make peace with God, He calls us His children and we get to inherit His home when we die.

Today we will study the **eighth** and final beatitude. What does the word "*persecuted*" mean? (To be treated harshly or cruelly; to be hurt or teased; to be treated meanly)

What does it mean to be persecuted for righteousness sake? (To be made fun of for doing good or to be treated badly for doing right.)

Can you be happy when someone makes fun of you for doing good? God says you can. It is hard to be treated badly for doing right, but the Lord Jesus has given us an example.

1 Peter 2:21-24

"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed."

Jesus is our example to live by. He never did a wrong thing. He never had a bad thought. He was always kind and loving towards people. He did all kinds of good things for people. He healed the lame and made the blind to see. But, the Jews hated Him. They got hold of Him and whipped Him and pushed a crown of thorns down on His head. They put a purple robe on Him and made fun of Him. Then they forced Him to carry a heavy wooden cross up a mountain where they hung Him by nails.

Why did the Jews do that? (They were jealous of Him. They were afraid that Jesus would take their power away in the government.) What was Jesus' reaction to the persecution He received? (He took it with dignity.) He asked the Father to forgive them; He said they didn't know what they were doing. He showed love and compassion right up to the end. How would you react if someone made fun of you for being a Christian? [Teacher, allow the children to discuss this issue.]

God expects us to live our lives with the attitudes that we have been learning from the beatitudes. He wants us to be humble and to seek to live right. How can we do that in a world that is literally trying to get away with murder? People are being taught by the examples

they receive that it's OK to lie and cheat and steal and even kill people. Do you think it makes it OK to do these things just because you've seen it done on TV, or in the movies, or your friend says, "*Hey everybody else is doing it!*"? (No!) God has perfect standards by which our lives will be judged someday. God sees everything we do and hears every thought that we have. He knows all about us!

How can we make the right choices even when we are tempted not to? We need to have faith in God. We need to ask God to control our thoughts and feelings.

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:6a, "*without faith it is impossible to please Him (God).*" We need to believe what God says, and act on it. He has told us that if we live with the kind of godly attitudes listed in *The Beatitudes*, we will be happy and receive blessings and honor from Him.

There will be a time when people might make fun of you for being a Christian. Expect that to happen; don't be surprised!

You may avoid persecution by living like the world — laughing at dirty jokes, joining in mean tricks - but then you will not have the blessings Jesus promises in this beatitude.

What is the blessing that God promises those who are persecuted for being a Christian? (*Yours is the kingdom of heaven...great is your reward in heaven.*)

When people laugh at you or even try to hurt you for doing right, think of the happy days to come in Heaven. Troubles may last for a while here on earth, but Heaven will be forever and ever!

Closing Prayer

Father, we look forward to the day that we will live with You in Heaven for ever more. Until then, we do want to live happy lives here on earth. We want be known by our friends as the kind of person that has godly attitudes. We want to receive the blessings You promise in the beatitudes. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. Has anyone ever tried to make you feel weird for being a Christian?
2. What does the word "*persecuted*" mean? (To be treated harshly or cruelly; to be hurt or teased; to be treated meanly)
3. What does it mean to be persecuted for righteousness sake? (To be made fun of for doing good or to be treated badly for doing right)
4. Do you know anyone who didn't feel bad when they were made fun of? (Jesus)
5. Why didn't Jesus feel bad even when people were making fun of him and torturing Him? (Jesus knew He was doing the Father's will; He knew He was doing the right thing.)
6. What was Jesus' reaction to the people that persecuted Him? (He asked the Father to forgive them. He said they didn't know what they were doing.)
7. How would you react if someone made fun of you for being a Christian?
8. What kinds of attitudes does God want us to have? (He wants us to be humble and forgiving and to seek to live right.)
9. How can you have godly attitudes? (Ask God to control your thoughts and feelings.)
10. What is faith in God? (Belief that what God says, He means, and then act upon it.)
11. Do you think you'll have persecution some time in your life? (Yes! God says we can expect it.)
12. How can you avoid persecution? (By living like the world. Laugh at dirty jokes, join in mean tricks)
13. What is the blessing that God promises those who are persecuted for being a Christian? (Yours is the kingdom of heaven...great is your reward in heaven)

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Match the Attitude with the Meaning

(Draw a line to connect the attitude with the meaning)

Poor in Spirit

Earnestly Desire to do What is Right

Mourn

Treated Harshly or Cruelly

Meek

Blameless

Hunger and Thirst
For Righteousness

Personal Humility

Merciful

Grieve Over Our Sins

Pure in Heart

Know That We Need Jesus

Persecuted

Don't Give What's Deserved

Match the Attitude with the Blessing

(Draw a line to connect the attitude with the promised blessing)

Poor in Spirit

Called Sons of God

Mourn

Mercy

Meek

Kingdom of Heaven

Hunger and Thirst
For Righteousness

Comfort

Merciful

Inherit the Earth

Pure in Heart

Shall See God

Peacemaker

Kingdom of Heaven

Persecuted

Filled (or Satisfied)

You Are Salt and Light

(Matthew 5:13-16)

Introduction

Last week we finished an 8-week study of *the beatitudes*. We learned that having godly attitudes brings us inner happiness and special rewards.

The beatitudes are just the first part of a big, long teaching that Jesus gave to a huge crowd of people called "*The Sermon on the Mount*." This teaching is recorded for us in Matthew, chapters 5 through 7. He preached this sermon on a hillside so all the people could hear and see Him, that's why it's called *the Sermon on the Mount*. The people were probably all sitting around on the grass while Jesus taught them about what it means to be a citizen of God's kingdom.

Kingdom means "rule" or "reign." When we asked Jesus into our lives and accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord, we became citizens of God's kingdom (Ephesians 2:1-9; Philippians 3:20). Jesus explained that God wants us, as citizens of His kingdom, to live our lives in such a way that we make a positive impact on the people around us so that more people will come to know Him.

Opening Prayer

Lord, You want to use us to bring more people into Your kingdom. So, I pray that You will teach us this morning how to live our lives in such a way that we make a positive impression on our friends and family. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

*"You are the salt of the earth.... You are the light of the world."
(Matthew 5:13-14)*

Lesson

This week we're going to look at Matthew 5:13-16 to find two more marks of a citizen of God's kingdom.

Salt of the Earth

Matthew 5:13

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."

[Teacher, give everyone a pinch of salt to taste. Discuss what salt is used for.] What is salt? (Salt is a seasoning. You put it on food to make it taste better.)

What do you think Jesus is saying when He calls us the "*salt of the earth*"? He wants us to understand that we are the world's seasoning. He expects us to make life more tasteful for everyone. What do you think that means? How can you season the world?

What are some ways we are like salt?

1. Having positive godly attitudes makes people happy; they like having you around because you are full of joy and that makes them feel good.
2. Being *pure in heart* means that you don't have any bad thoughts about people. Again, people like to be around people that see the good in others.
3. Being *peacemakers* brings tranquility among people.
4. Being *merciful* to people makes people thankful.
5. If you are *hungering and thirsting after righteousness*, you will make the people around you think twice about doing unrighteous things.

This is the kind of influence we need to be on the people around us. We should not let the world influence us; we should influence the world.

Matthew 5:13

"...if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by man."

Jesus is saying that if salt loses its flavor, it has no value. What He means is that in the same way, if Christians make no effort to "season" the world around them, they are of little value to God. If we are too much like the world, we are worthless. We should not blend in with everyone else. Instead, we should affect others positively, just as seasoning brings out the best flavor in food.

Have you ever noticed that when you eat salty things, like potato chips, it makes you really thirsty? Salt creates a big thirst in people. As "*the salt of the earth*", we should be creating spiritual thirst in our friends and neighbors. Has anyone ever asked you about your church or about Jesus? If your friends wonder why you have such godly attitudes, it will be a great way for you to tell them about how wonderful Jesus is and what a big difference He makes in your life.

Here's another thing about salt. Did you know that in the old days, before refrigerators were invented, people would put salt on meat to preserve it. They'd make jerky out of the meat, using salt. Salt is a preservative and like salt, we are to be a purifying influence on the people around us.

What are some ways we can be a purifying influence on the world? [Teacher, lead the children in discussion using the following questions.]

1. If your friends wanted to do a mean trick, what could you do?
2. If your friends wanted to tell you a nasty joke, what could you do?
3. If your friends are fighting, what could you do?

4. If your friends wanted you to do something you know your parents wouldn't approve of, what could you do?

Light of the World

Matthew 5:14

"You are the light of the world..."

Matthew 5:16

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

What do you think Jesus is saying here? [Teacher, light a candle. Talk about the attributes of light.] Jesus wants us to "*shine as lights*" by doing works that will turn the attention of others to God.

Verse 14 goes on to say,

"A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

Can you hide a city that is sitting on top of a hill? (No! Its light at night can be seen for miles.) If we live for Christ, we will glow like lights, showing others what Jesus is like. The Scripture is telling us that, we are the world's light — like a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see.

Notice what it says about the lights.

Matthew 5:15

Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

People don't light a lamp and then put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, we should not hide our light! Instead, we should let it shine for all to see so that they will praise your Heavenly Father. [Teacher, put a glass bowl over the candle.]

What are some ways we hide our light?

1. Going along with the crowd, even when we know that God wouldn't approve
2. Letting sin dim our light
3. Denying the light; denying that we are Christians
4. Being quiet when we should speak up about Jesus
5. Not explaining our light to others; not telling others about how wonderful Jesus is
6. Ignoring the needs of others

We need to be a beacon of truth — don't shut your light off from the rest of the world.

[Teacher, discuss what happened to the burning candle when you placed it under the bowl.]

Closing Prayer

Lord, we want to be the *salt of the earth* and the *light of the world*. We want to make life more tasteful for everyone. And we want our lives to show people the right way to live. Help us to keep having godly attitudes so that others will know that we are Christians and will want to know You better. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Game Center

Make the following review questions into a game. Number the children, then use a spinner to see who will be the questioner. Spin again to see who will be the responder. Individually cut out the questions (without the answers!) and place them in a bowl.

Or, use the following questions in another game of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What is the section of Scripture called from Matthew chapters 5 through 7? (The Sermon on the Mount)
2. Why is it called *the Sermon on the Mount*? (Because Jesus preached this sermon on a hillside)
3. What is the first part of the Sermon on the Mount called? (The beatitudes)
4. What do the beatitudes teach us? (If we have godly attitudes we will have inner happiness and special rewards from God)
5. What are two things Jesus said every Christian should be like? (Salt and light)
6. What did Jesus mean when He said we are to be the salt of the earth? (We are to act like seasoning, making life more tasteful to people)
7. Tell us a way you can be like a seasoning, making people's lives more tasteful. (Having a positive Godly attitude, being pure in heart, being a peacemaker, being merciful, etc.)

8. What makes us lose our saltiness? (Letting the world influence us; acting in ungodly ways)
9. Salt makes people thirsty. Has your life ever created spiritual thirst in someone else? Has anyone ever admired your godly attitudes and asked you about why you're so nice?
10. Salt is a preservative. How can we help purify the world? (We can stop our friends from fighting. We cannot join in when our friends want to do a mean trick to someone.)
11. What did Jesus mean when He said we are to be *the light of the world*? (If we live for Christ, we will glow like light, showing others what Jesus is like. The world is a dark place and He wants us to show people the right way to live, like a flashlight in the dark.)
12. Jesus doesn't want us to put our light under a bowl. What are some ways we hide our light? (Going along with the crowd and doing wrong things; not admitting that we are Christians; not telling people about Jesus)
13. What is a way we can be lights to the world? (Be good and want to do the right things to please God. Praise God so people's attention is turned towards God.)
14. What happens if we hide our light? What happened to the candle under the bowl? (Our light for God will grow dim and go out.)

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