

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 182: THE BEATITUDES
MATTHEW 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them: "Blessed are those who recognize they are spiritually helpless. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them. Blessed are those who mourn (which means those who are very sad). They will be comforted. Blessed are those who are meek, which means gentle. They will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for God's approval. They will be satisfied. Blessed are those who show mercy (which means those who forgive others easily). They will be treated mercifully. Blessed are those who are pure in heart, which means whose thoughts are pure and without sin. They will see God. Blessed are those who make peace. They will be called Sons of God, or God's children. Blessed are those who are persecuted (punished and treated wrongly) for doing what God approves of. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, lie, and say all kinds of evil things about you because of me. Rejoice and be glad because you have a great reward in heaven! The prophets who lived before you were persecuted in these ways!

182. THE BEATITUDES

MATTHEW 5:1-12



"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." MATTHEW 5:8

182. THE BEATITUDES

MATTHEW 5:1-12

MEMORY VERSE:

“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven...” **MATTHEW 5:12**

Review Questions

True or False

1. Blessed are those who are spiritually helpless, for theirs is the kingdom of EARTH.
2. Blessed are those who are sad, for they will be comforted .
3. Blessed are those who are meek or gentle, for they shall inherit nothing.
4. Blessed are those who go to McDonald's.
5. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for God's approval, for they shall be filled.

Questions

1. What do you think blessed means? Do you think it means happy?
2. What did Jesus say happens to those who are merciful, or who forgive? Do they be treated mercifully?
3. Those who are pure in heart (whose thoughts are clean and without sin) will see who? Is it God?
4. What are those who make peace called? Sons of..... (God!)
5. What about those who are persecuted because of Jesus? What kingdom is theirs?
6. Who else was treated wrongfully and persecuted before us because of God's Word? Was it the prophets?

Lesson 182 Activity & Discussion

Where Did It Come From?

On strips of paper write down several different things like "Air," "Cars," "Food," "Houses," "Water," "Jobs," etc. (for younger children who cannot yet read you could use magazine pictures for illustrations). Make sure you get plenty of pictures so that the children can take a significant amount of time to discuss and sort them. Have the children work together to sort them into two piles: the things that God gives us and the things we give ourselves.

When the children are done, take the things that they have placed in the "things we give ourselves" category and show them that even these things come from God. (I.e. "God gives us good health and minds to work at our jobs so that we can make the money to buy this" or "God provides us the means to purchase our houses, cars, etc."). Explain that everything we have comes from the Lord; we have no reason at all to be prideful because it is He who gives us everything!!!

Power under Control – Explaining what Meek Means

Take two empty styrofoam cups.

Show the children that the cups are fragile, and if it were not for the control of your power, the cup would be crushed. Take the other cup in the other hand and crush it to demonstrate.

Explain that meekness is power under control, just like Jesus demonstrated for us when He was here on earth. He could have called the entire army of Angels from Heaven, or fire, or anything, to punish those who were doing wrong, but instead He chose to be meek and merciful to everyone.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to follow Jesus' teaching and not follow the values of the world. Jesus' way will bring happiness and life, while the world's way will bring misery and destruction. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.