

THE BEATITUDES

LESSON 1: SPIRITUAL HUMILITY

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In this lesson on Humility, the children will discover how blessed they can be when they live lives that are spiritually humble according to the words of Jesus.

TOPICS

Beatitudes, Attitude, Humility, Joy, Spiritual Growth

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

Praise and worship are an important part of a believer's life and children often learn best by watching and repeating what they see. So please, praise and worship together.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Introduction:

Our lesson series starts at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, after He called together the apostles, saying He would make them fishers of men. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching the Good News and healing many who were sick or demon possessed. Because of these wonderful things, many would come to Jesus to hear what He had to say or to be healed. One day, a very large crowd of people gathered near Jesus as He stood on a mountainside. It was at this time Jesus taught the people what we now call "The Beatitudes."

Read Matthew 5:1-6 (The first four Beatitudes)

Discussion Questions:

The children will not likely know the answers to these questions but let them give their responses before explaining the meaning of each verse in a way they will understand.

1. What does blessed mean in these verses? (*Spiritual joy and happiness from being a child of God.*)
2. What does it mean to be poor in spirit? (*Admitting you don't know everything but are totally dependent on God.*)
3. Who will inherit the earth and why? (*The meek, because God favors those who are humble before Him. God's kingdom is for those who accept and believe in His one and only son, Jesus.*)
4. What does hunger and thirst for righteousness mean? (*It means to continually feed our minds with the teachings of Jesus. When we do this, our hearts will be full of joy, and there won't be any more room for things like worry, fear or envy.*)

CLASS EXERCISE (15 minutes)

Balloon Pop (See Video)

SUGGESTED PARENT/CHILD ACTIVITY

On page 2 of this lesson, you will find a set of "Serve Like Jesus" cards for you and your child. Cut them out and place each in a bowl or bag and mix them up so that you are not sure which card is which. Next, take turns selecting one card, which contains an act of service and share with each other the following.

1. Was there a time where you could have done this task but didn't? How did you feel?
2. Was there a time where God called you to do this task and you did? How did you feel?
3. In what ways can you accomplish this task this week? Will you?

APPLICATION (4 minutes)

When Jesus began His ministry, He said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven has come near." (Matthew 4:17) Jesus was telling the people that He came down from Heaven Himself to be among them. But many did not understand. During His time on earth, many people believed that obeying the laws and rules would make them favorable to God. Just like now, many believe being good or going to church is enough.

In the beatitudes, Jesus teaches us the real meaning of having spiritual character and being children of God. We need to accept that we are poor spiritually, no matter how much money we have. We should be meek and humble before God, and we will inherit the promised new earth. And most of all, if our hearts are right with God, He will fill our spirits with an everlasting joy that is much better than what we get from material things.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

Serve Like Jesus

I will love my enemies.

Serve Like Jesus

I will pray and fast
for others.

Serve Like Jesus

I will forgive others who
have sinned against me.

Serve Like Jesus

I will see others as God
sees them without prejudice.

Serve Like Jesus

I will deny myself, placing
others' needs before
my own.

Serve Like Jesus

I will be a light in a dark
world by sharing the
Gospel with others.

Serve Like Jesus

I will comfort those
who mourn.

Serve Like Jesus

I will help feed the hungry.