

THE BEATITUDES

LESSON 2: SPIRITUAL CHARACTER

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In this second of three lessons on the Beatitudes, the children will discover that spiritual character goes beyond just being Christians. It means we care about others even more than ourselves.

TOPICS

Beatitudes, Caring, Character, Reputation, 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:

The second part of the Beatitudes talks about having spiritual character that may at first seem obvious. People can easily be kind to others who are in need. We can say that being a Christian automatically makes us holy and pure. We can also assume we are peacemakers because we don't like war and don't have enemies. But what do these next three beatitudes really teach us about spiritual character that is pleasing to God?

Read Matthew 5:7-9 (The next three 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 is mercy, and how do we show mercy to someone? ***(By showing kindness and helping someone in need, such as with food or money.)***
2. Besides clothing, food and money, what else do people need that we can give? ***(The good news of Jesus.)***
3. How can we be pure at heart? ***(By being honest and strong in our faith. Not just going to church and looking holy, but by obeying God's every word in our life.)***
4. No one is perfectly pure at heart, so then how can we see God? ***(We can see Him through Jesus, who washed our sins away.)***
5. What is a peacemaker and how can we be peacemakers? ***(A peacemaker is someone who does not let anger, hate, or bitterness destroy relationships between people. We can be peacemakers by striving to be like Jesus, and by obeying and following His teachings.)***

CLASS EXERCISE (12 minutes)

Dirty Windows (See Video)

SUGGESTED PARENT/CHILD ACTIVITY

On page 2 of this lesson, work with your child(ren) to answer the activity page questions. Then have them copy their answers into the corresponding blank spaces to complete the first four beatitudes found in Matthew 5:7-10. After completing the page, have a conversation about how these beatitudes can be applied to your daily life.

APPLICATION (10 minutes)

As Christians, we must have spiritual character that will easily identify us as believers in Christ. We do not just show mercy and kindness to those who need physical things like food and clothing, but we must also show mercy and kindness by meeting people's spiritual needs. Share the good news to those who do not know God.

Purity in heart comes easily if we feed our mind with God's word, and not the junk of this world. But it's an inside thing, not the way we look on the outside. So, clean up your thoughts. We become peacemakers when we act how Jesus did when He was with other people. Forgive them, love them and enjoy them, because we are all God's creation. But most of all we are peacemakers when we introduce others to the love of Jesus, so they too can have the peace that comes from being one of God's children.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

What Does it Take to be Blessed?

Instructions: Answer the following questions, then copy your answer into the corresponding blank space below to complete the second four beatitudes found in Matthew 5:7-10.



1. What two letter word do you use to call yourself? 1. _____
2. In school, you sometimes have _____ and tell. 2. _____
3. What object would you draw on Valentines day? 3. _____
4. Who is the Creator of all things? _____. 4. _____
5. What do we have when there is no war? 5. _____
6. If the girls are daughters, what are boys? 6. _____
7. What is the opposite of more? 7. _____
8. In an argument, if you are not wrong, you are what? 8. _____
9. What do you call a place with a castle, a king, a queen and many people? 9. _____
10. Where is Jesus waiting for us? 10. _____



Blessed are the _____rciful, for they will be _____n mercy.
(1) (2)

Blessed are the pure in _____, for they will see _____.
(3) (4)

Blessed are the _____ makers, for they will be called _____ of God.
(5) (6)

B_____ed are those who are persecuted because of _____eousness,
(7) (8)

for theirs is the _____ of _____.
(9) (10)