

LESSON 6



THE BEATITUDES

OBJECTIVES

1. To follow God's teachings so that God will bless us.
2. To understand which types of people God blesses.
3. To pursue the virtues and build up the characteristics of righteousness, mercy, and peacemaking.

MEMORY VERSE

"Blessed is the man whom You instruct,
O Lord, and teach out of Your law."

(Psalm 94:12)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for gathering us here so that we can worship and learn more about His word.
2. Ask God to help us follow His teachings so that He will bless us.
3. Ask God to use His Spirit to change us from within and to change our hearts so that we can be who He wants us to be.
4. Ask God to help us focus on this lesson and apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. The Beatitudes

- What do they mean to us?
 - i. God promises to bless us if we follow His teachings.
 - ii. They are different from the teachings of the world.
- Why did Jesus give these to us?
 - i. To let us understand the spiritual blessings and promises of following God's teachings and commandments.
 - ii. To reward us when we follow His ways.
 - iii. Because He loves us.

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Jesus is the one true God.

3. Life Application—Understanding the role of the Beatitudes in our lives today.

4. Activity

- Candle in a Bottle
- Beatitudes Brainstorm



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Jesus proved Himself to be full of compassion for all people, especially for those who were oppressed or suffering. Although it was not the main purpose of His presence among man (Lk 4:43-44), Jesus healed the physical suffering of those who came before Him. His power to perform miracles spread far and wide, and thousands of people followed Him from region to region.

Although Jesus' mission was to point people's hearts to the kingdom of God in heaven, many followed Him because they needed healing or because they wanted to witness Jesus' power. Not many understood the importance of the spiritual blessings He had come to offer. They did not understand that inheriting the kingdom of heaven was far more important than any immediate physical comfort or any extraordinary miracle they might see. They did not realize that it was more important to understand Jesus' teachings, for hidden within them were the promises of God. If they did, they would know that the only way to receive God's blessings was to follow God's way. Today, when we read the Beatitudes, we will find that His teachings are different from the teachings of the world. However, by following them, we will receive blessings from God that are everlasting and satisfying to our souls, rather than blessings that are vain and short-lived, such as those that the world offers.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Your students may have a hard time understanding why it is blessed to be poor in spirit or to mourn. These ideas probably seem contradictory to them. They will usually think that they are blessed if they experience immediate joy and happiness. Good grades, a birthday party, a new toy, and a bigger allowance are the kinds of blessings that make them smile. They must understand, however, that these are only material things, things that the world can give to them. God can give them even greater blessings, blessings that the world could never give. Emphasize to your students that God's definition of being blessed is different from the world's. It is often, in times of great difficulty, when we feel like we cannot continue on, that we truly come to know God's real blessings. When things are really bad, even hopeless, God gives us His hope, happiness, and peace. It is then that we understand what God means by blessings and being blessed.

Tell your students that they should not be afraid of hardship or sadness. Those times are bound to come. But no matter how difficult the hardship or trial, encourage them to follow Jesus until the end. He has promised to always take care of us.



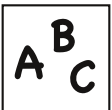
Opener

5 Minutes

Before we begin today's lesson, you may already be wondering what the word "beatitude" means. You may be surprised to know that it is not really found in the English language. It is derived from the Latin word *beatus* meaning "happy" or "blessed." Its meaning is very close to the original Greek word that Jesus used in His message. The Greek word for "blessed" is *makarioi*, which also means "happy" or "fortunate."

Jesus spoke of the Beatitudes as part of a sermon. It has come to be known as the "Sermon on the Mount." This sermon is one of the most quoted passages in the Bible.

The Beatitudes contrast from the worldly view of what it means to be happy and blessed. Many people do not understand the Beatitudes because they make no sense to them. However, that is because they try to understand it using only knowledge acquired from the world. The Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount were against the expectations of an earthly kingdom, which the Jews thought that Jesus would be establishing. Many questions came up, such as "How can you establish a worldly kingdom with the weak and the meek? How can you be merciful to your enemies? How can you be peacemakers if you are supposed to overturn a kingdom, such as the Roman Empire? How can you let others persecute and insult you?" It is obvious that Jesus was not talking about a kingdom in this world. Rather, He was promising a kingdom in heaven. So, let's begin our lesson today by looking at the characteristics that allows us to inherit the kingdom of heaven.



Vocabulary

fulfillment: the act or state of fulfilling

nourish: to sustain with food and nutrients; to supply what is necessary for life, health, and growth

persecute: to pursue with harassing or oppressive treatment, especially because of religion

stroke: sudden loss of consciousness caused by rupture or obstruction of a blood vessel in the brain



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 5:1-12 and read this passage together.

As mentioned earlier, Jesus spoke of the Beatitudes as part of a sermon. That sermon has come to be known as the "Sermon on the Mount."

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students. Tell the students to fill it out during the lesson, as you go over each Beatitude in detail. Keep one copy for yourself to reference during the lesson as well. The underlined words are the answers to the Bible Discovery worksheet. When you reach sections with these words, pause and ask the students to write the words down on the worksheet. Give them some time before continuing.

Now let's look at the worksheet. We will go through each of the Beatitudes again, and this time, we will look at each one in more detail. Fill in the teachings for each one in the space provided.

Verse 3: Blessed are the poor in spirit...

When we think of the poor, we immediately think of people with little or no money. Their wallets are empty, so they must seek help from the world. However, this is not what Jesus was trying to say; rather, He was talking about those who were spiritually poor. When someone is poor in spirit, their spirit is empty and down. Someone who is poor in spirit longs after God because their spirit is in need of fulfillment. They can be people who are in lost or hopeless situations, or people who are in despair and full of sadness.

Being poor in spirit is the root of all virtues. It is the state of our hearts and it is how we view ourselves. This is why this first Beatitude is the root from which all the other Beatitudes grow from.

...For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Being poor in spirit is admitting that we are absolutely nothing without God and that everything we have comes from God. Therefore, those who are poor in spirit will have a longing and desire to seek after God for help so that their empty spirit can be filled. If they seek after God and put their trust in God, then Jesus promises them the kingdom of heaven. He is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the one who brings the kingdom of God to men.

Verse 4: Blessed are those who mourn...

This is the next one on your worksheet. You might be thinking that this one is strange because blessedness is about being happy. How can you be happy when there is mourning?

People mourn the sorrows and fears of life. These are

worldly sorrows—things that bother or trouble us.

Jesus is also referring to the godly sorrow from the repentance of sin. "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death" (2 Cor 7:10).

There are many ways to deal with sorrow. Some people turn to worldly pleasures and others to alcohol and drugs. Some choose to simply ignore or "run away" from the problems of life.

But then, there are those who turn to God to find peace and comfort in their time of suffering and pain.

...For they shall be comforted.

Jesus will comfort those who mourn, but only if they turn to Him for help. He can grant peace, joy, hope, and forgiveness.

Jesus told His disciples right before He ascended to heaven, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may be with you for ever" (Jn 14:16 ASV).

Verse 5: Blessed are the meek...

Jesus is talking about those who trust in the Lord and wait for Him to defend them, deliver them, and reward them. Those who are meek are humble and gentle.

Jesus is not referring to those who are weak, sad, or quiet. He is referring to people who willingly and joyfully consider their own lives worth nothing and trust in God.

...For they shall inherit the earth.

The meek will inherit the earth. This is a wonderful promise. The Lord is faithful and generous in blessings to those who trust in Him.

Verse 6: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...

This is about those who persistently seek what the Lord desires. They have a thirst and hunger for God. Psalms often mentions about man craving and desiring more of God.

*"How lovely is Your tabernacle,
O Lord of Hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints
for the courts of the Lord." (Ps 84:1-2a)*

"My soul longs for You like a thirsty land." (Ps 143:6b)

"Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness" refers to those who persistently seek after God in prayer and in God's word. They pursue what is right in God's eyes.

...For they shall be filled.

Those who seek God with all their heart will find Him and will be filled by His Spirit and His words of life. Think of it as a spiritual buffet: springs of living water and the bread of life. This also means that even our material needs will be provided for. Students, keep in mind that hungering and thirsting is not a one-time thing. We need to eat daily, as our bodies need constant nourishment from food and water to function properly. In the same way, our spirit needs to be fed daily, too. Many people suffer from spiritual malnourishment simply because they don't hunger and thirst for spiritual things. This is dangerous and will pull us further away from God.

Verse 7: Blessed are the merciful...

To be merciful means to show compassion and to be helpful, kind, and caring to others. Those who are merciful are after the Lord's heart.

When Jesus was preaching in the world, He always showed compassion, love, and care. We must have the same attitude. "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering" (Col 3:12).

...For they shall obtain mercy.

This part is simple, students. If we show mercy when others need it, we will also be shown mercy by both God and man.

Verse 8: Blessed are the pure in heart...

This Beatitude is about pursuing holiness because God is holy. We must guard our thoughts, speech, and actions. But you may be wondering, "How can we be pure?" or "Can any human being claim to be pure?" We all know that we can sometimes have impure thoughts, attitudes, and desires.

...For they shall see God.

Only God can give us a pure heart. But how do we pursue purity? By keeping God's words in our heart and by taking time daily to be with God through prayer and Bible reading. In this way, we shall see God.

Verse 9: Blessed are the peacemakers...

Being a peacemaker means to settle and resolve things between man and man without violence. It means settling

issues between God and us. Jesus taught this all the time throughout His ministry.

"But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you." (Lk 6:27-28)

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (Jn 13:35)

"Not returning evil for evil [...] but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing." (1 Pet 3:9)

...For they shall be called sons of God.

Peacemakers will have a nature like God and they will be called sons of God.

Verse 10: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake...

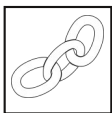
This is about the physical, mental, and emotional suffering related to being righteous. Being persecuted means to suffer, to be pursued, to be chased with hostile intent, or to be hunted down. That may sound scary, but it doesn't necessarily mean physical suffering, even though there are parts of the world where people really do suffer because of their belief in God. We may not go through physical persecution or suffering, but every day, a spiritual force pursues us. We fight a spiritual battle every single day to keep it from knocking us down.

...For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

When people are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, God will acknowledge their suffering and their blessing is the kingdom of heaven.

Conclusion

The characteristics found in the Beatitudes are not something that we can develop overnight or on our own. Developing these characteristics requires a slow, gradual change. There are no set steps or procedures in achieving this development. The only thing we can do is to ask God to completely transform us from within. Allowing God to control our lives means that we have the fullness of the Holy Spirit.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One true God: Jesus is the Savior

Jesus Christ, who is the Savior of mankind and the One who calls us back to heaven, shows us the way to heaven through the Beatitudes. If we can keep His commandments, He has promised us eternal life, blessings, and happiness in the heavenly kingdom.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **What is the meaning of "beatitude"?** It means "happy" or "blessed."
2. **Who are the poor in spirit?** Those whose spirits are in need of fulfillment. Those who long after God.
3. **What is the promise for those who mourn?** They will be comforted.
4. **What does it mean to be meek?** It means to be humble and gentle. This Beatitude refers to those who trust in the Lord and wait for Him to defend them, deliver them, and reward them.
5. **How are we filled when we hunger and thirst for righteousness?** When we seek after God with all our heart, we will find God and He will fill us.
6. **What does being merciful mean?** It means showing compassion. It also means to be helpful and care for others.
7. **How do we pursue purity?** By keeping God's words in our heart and by taking time daily to be with God through prayer and Bible reading.
8. **What is the blessing and promise to the peacemakers?** They will be called sons of God, which means they will have a nature like God and receive recognition as the children of God.
9. **What does it mean to be persecuted?** It means to suffer physically, mentally, and emotionally because of God. Additionally, it means to be hated and made fun of by others because of our righteousness.



Life Application

10 Minutes

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet to the students. The students will be reading the passages and answering questions on the worksheet. Keep one copy for yourself to reference as well. The suggested responses are provided here. Go over the goals with the students at the end of each passage after they have finished answering the questions.]

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

What can we learn from this family? What is the promise and blessing from God?

Even though Jane's family might have felt hopeless in this situation, as long as they pursued God and sought Him in prayer for help, God would fill their needs in His time.

When should we be poor in spirit?

We should always be poor in spirit at every moment, longing for God as a deer pants for water.

Our Goal: Let's make a determination to be poor in spirit constantly, always longing after God or helping those around us to seek after God when they are poor in spirit.

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

What can we learn from Greg and his family? What is the promise and blessing from God?

If we have any sorrows or emotional pain, God will always be there to comfort us. We only need to ask.

When should we mourn?

When we encounter emotional or spiritual pain or sorrow in life. Also, when we have done something wrong; the Bible refers to this kind of mourning as godly sorrow. Experiencing godly sorrow means that we feel sorry for what we have done, so we repent by asking God in prayer for forgiveness and by making a determination not to do it again.

Our Goal: Let us remember that God is the great Comforter. When we experience spiritual pain and sorrow, we can rely on God. When we do something wrong, we can ask God for mercy and forgiveness.

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

What can we learn from Frank? What is the promise and blessing from God?

We should be humble and gentle and trust in God. We should know that we have been created by God and should always trust in God.

What are the things in your life that you must trust God with? How can you be humble and meek?

We need to trust God to guide us in everything—it doesn't matter whether we are at school, at church, or at home. We are humble when we lower our voice in speech, when we do not demand our ways even if we are right, and when our attitude is full of gentleness because we consider ourselves lower than others. Meekness is not a weakness. Rather, meekness is a strength that comes from being gentle in everything.

Our Goal: We must remember that we must be humble and gentle in all that we do. God is always greater than us and we must remember to put our trust in God.

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

What can we learn from Jackie? What is the promise and blessing from God?

God promises that those who always seek after God will be filled by the Holy Spirit and the word of God will fill their hearts, too. Other worldly things will be put aside as God becomes our greatest need.

What are some things you can do every day to satisfy your hunger and quench your thirst for righteousness?

Pray, read the Bible, sing or listen to hymns, play hymns on a musical instrument, read Manna, listen to a sermon recording, etc.

Our Goal: We must try to lead a balanced life. If we do a lot of "worldly" things, such as watch TV, play video games, or read unedifying novels, we must set aside time, no matter where we are, for God. That means putting aside what we're doing and focusing on thinking about God, praying or reading the Bible, listening to or playing hymns, etc.

5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

What can we learn from Kenny? What is the promise and blessing from God?

To be merciful means to show compassion and to be helpful, kind, and caring to others. Someone who is merciful is after the Lord's heart. If we show mercy to others, God and man will show mercy to us, too.

When are some times where we need to show mercy to others?

When we see someone who needs help or is in pain, we should show mercy and compassion. When someone does something wrong to us, we must try our best to forgive that person.

Our Goal: It is very important to remember that if we want mercy and forgiveness from God, we must first show mercy and forgiveness to others—at home, at school, and at church.

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

What can we learn from Justin? What is the promise and blessing from God?

If we pursue holiness like Justin did, God promises us that we will see His face in the heavenly kingdom one day.

How can we keep a pure heart? What are some things that challenge your holiness?

We can ask God to help us to know the difference between right and wrong. We can choose not to participate in things that we know are bad and against the teachings of the Bible.

Our Goal: When we encounter situations that challenge our holiness and the purity of our hearts, we must keep God in our hearts and rely on God. We should also try to ask ourselves this question: "What would Jesus do?"

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

What can we learn from Preston? What is the promise and blessing from God?

If you settle arguments or conflicts without violence or fighting, you will have the nature of God and you will be worthy of being called a child of God. Then, you will have a place in heaven.

How should we be peacemakers? Do you ever have fights or conflicts with other people, your friends, or your family?

How will you apply this Beatitude to those tough problems that you have with other people?

We must always try to resolve any arguments without fighting or yelling—this applies to arguments with everybody we know. We should strive to avoid fighting physically or hurting others with words.

Our Goal: Jesus is the Prince of Peace. We should try to be more like Jesus—He never fought or hurt the people who accused Him and persecuted Him. He didn't even fight with those who wanted to kill Him. We must keep the peace of Jesus in our hearts every day.

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

What can we learn from Wesley? What is the promise and blessing from God?

No matter what hardships or persecution we face from others, we must rely on God and stand firm in our faith and righteousness. If we know that something is right in the eyes of God, we should always strive to do it, regardless of what others say. God promises that He will acknowledge us in heaven and will award us for standing strong.

It is not easy when we are persecuted for righteousness. What should we do to prepare ourselves for persecution?

How will you stand up for your faith and keep the commandments of God?

Praying daily and reviewing the word of God helps prepare us for when we are persecuted. Take notes during sermons and reread these notes from time to time to keep the word of God in your hearts. Ask God to provide you with the strength to stand up for righteousness and for your faith. We should remember to try our best to stand up for Christ.

Our Goal: Remember that we must set ourselves apart from others. We cannot do some of the things others in the world do. Being righteous means we must do the right thing and rely on God to help us stand up for righteousness and make it clear that we follow the teachings of Christ.



Activity

1. Candle in a Bottle / 2. Beatitudes Brainstorm

10-15 Minutes

1. Candle in a Bottle

Objective: To emphasize to students that we need a steady supply of spiritual oxygen: the Holy Spirit and God's word!

Materials

- Candle
- Glass bottle large enough to enclose the candle

Instructions

Before you light the candle, ask the class, "How long do you think it will take for the flame to go out?" or "How long will it burn?"

Light the candle yourself or ask a TA to do it, and allow the students to watch. Cover the lit candle with a glass jar or other glass container. It will only take a few seconds for the candle to go out.

After the flame has been extinguished, ask the class, "What does this show?" [Wait for the students to answer.] It shows that oxygen, which the flame feeds on and which is invisible, really exists. How do we know? The flame feeds on the oxygen until it is all gone. When the oxygen is gone, the flame dies.

Just like the flame needed oxygen to survive, we also need oxygen to survive. However, we also need spiritual oxygen, as well. We must hunger and thirst for righteousness, for the Holy Spirit and for God's word.

2. Beatitudes Brainstorm

Objective: To understand what these Christian qualities are so that we can pursue them.

Materials

- 8 index cards

Instructions

Write each of the following questions on one side of an index card, making sure to include the partner descriptions. Then have the students sit with you on the floor in a circle. Shuffle the cards and place them facedown in a stack in the middle of the circle.

Taking turns, have each student (1) draw a card from the pile, (2) find their partners, if there are any, and then (3) read the questions aloud. The reader and the partners must each give an answer to the question. The turn is over when they successfully answer the question. The drawing proceeds clockwise. The point of this activity is to brainstorm and get ideas, so there is no winner or loser.

[Note: The students may need you to help stimulate their thinking. However, simply prompt them. Do not let them get an easy answer from you.]

Questions

1. What does it mean to be poor in spirit? / How can a person obtain the kingdom of heaven if they are poor in spirit?
(Partners: *the three people to your left*)
2. What things in life might cause us to mourn? / What kind of comfort does Jesus promise to those who mourn?
(Partners: *anyone wearing red, blue, or yellow*)
3. What does Jesus mean by "meek"? / Name someone from the Bible who was blessed because he or she was meek.
(Partners: *all the brothers*)
4. How can a person hunger and thirst for righteousness? / How will God satisfy them? (Partners: *all the sisters*)
5. To whom should we be merciful? / How will God bless the merciful? (Partners: *anyone who has glasses, braces, or is wearing a watch*)
6. How can a person have a pure heart? / In what ways does God show Himself to those pure in heart? (Partners: *anyone wearing green, purple, or black*)
7. How can a person be a peacemaker? / In what ways are peacemakers like God? (Partners: *anyone wearing socks*)
8. What does God want a person to do when they are persecuted? / What blessings can a person receive because of persecution? (Partners: *everybody*)

Homework Answer Key

Matthew 5:3-10

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.

Bible Discovery Worksheet Answer Key

Verse 3: after God / kingdom of heaven
Verse 4: sorrows, repentance / comfort
Verse 5: humble, gentle / inherit the earth
Verse 6: after God, God's word / filled
Verse 7: compassion, helpful / mercy
Verse 8: holiness / God
Verse 9: violence / sons of God
Verse 10: righteous / suffering, kingdom of heaven

The Beatitudes

Beatitude	Meaning	Blessings
Verse 3: Blessed are the poor in spirit...	Someone who is poor in spirit longs _____ because their spirit is in need of fulfillment.	If they seek after God and put their trust in God, then Jesus promises them the _____.
Verse 4: Blessed are those who mourn...	Jesus talks about people who mourn the _____ and fears of life and those who mourn because of godly sorrow from the _____ of sin.	If they seek after God, then Jesus will _____ them.
Verse 5: Blessed are the meek...	Those who are meek are _____ and _____.	If the meek continue to trust and seek after God, because God is faithful, they will _____.
Verse 6: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...	This refers to those who persistently seek _____ in prayer and in _____. They want to pursue what is right in God's eyes.	If people hunger and thirst for God and want to do what is right in the eyes of God, they will be _____.
Verse 7: Blessed are the merciful...	To be merciful means to show _____ and to be _____, kind, and caring to others.	If we show mercy when others need it, we will also be shown _____ by both God and man.
Verse 8: Blessed are the pure in heart...	If we want to be pure in heart, we must pursue _____.	If we keep ourselves holy, we shall see _____.
Verse 9: Blessed are the peacemakers...	Peacemakers are those who want to settle and resolve things between man and man without _____.	These people will have a nature like God and they will be called _____.
Verse 10: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake...	This talks about the physical, mental, and emotional suffering related to being _____.	God will acknowledge their _____ and their blessing is the _____.

Living the Beatitudes

Instructions: Read each short passage and answer the questions. Open your Bibles to Matthew, chapter 5 to help answer the questions.

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

Jane's family needed to move to another town. The area around their home had become too noisy and busy. But so far, nothing had been going according to their plans. There had been no buyers who wanted their home, they had to sell this house before they could move to a new one, and the new school year was approaching fast. Time was running out. They tried everything. It was at this point that Jane's family recognized that their plans were not going smoothly. They realized that they must ask God for help and put their full trust in Him. They prayed day and night, pouring out their needs to God. Thank God, two weeks later, they received an offer on the house and were able to move to a new home in time for the new school year.



What can we learn from this family? What is the promise and blessing from God?

When should we be poor in spirit?

Our Goal: Let's make a determination to be poor in spirit constantly, always longing after God or helping those around us to seek after God when they are poor in spirit.

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



Greg's grandmother recently passed away from a stroke. She had been so dear to Greg, even since childhood. Greg's parents told this news to him and he felt so sad. He ran into his room and started crying. His parents also went into his room, comforted him and encouraged him to call on God for help. During that prayer, everyone prayed so earnestly in the power of the Holy Spirit and at the end of that long prayer, Greg knew that God had comforted him.

What can we learn from Greg and his family? What is the promise and blessing from God?

When should we mourn?

Our Goal: Let us remember that God is the great Comforter. When we experience spiritual pain and sorrow, we can rely on God. When we do something wrong, we can ask God for mercy and forgiveness.

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

Frank needed to play the piano for the Friday night service at church. It was his first time and he was very nervous. He had already practiced the two hymns ahead of time and was ready, but he was still anxious and afraid of messing up. He finally decided that he had already done his part and now he had to rely and fully trust in God to help him. Before the service began, he asked his parents to take him to church fifteen minutes early so that he could pray and rely on God even more.

What can we learn from Frank? What is the promise and blessing from God?



**What are the things in your life that you must trust God with?
How can you be humble and meek?**

Our Goal: We must remember that we must be humble and gentle in all that we do. God is always greater than us and we must remember to put our trust in God.

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



Ever since Jackie came back from SSC, she has been reading the Bible more and praying more. Now, she also enjoys listening to hymns instead of the worldly music she listened to before. She has also made a determination to watch less television. She desires to seek God with all her heart, knowing that there are many temptations in school and that she wants to do right in the eyes of God.

What can we learn from Jackie? What is the promise and blessing from God?

What are some things you can do every day to satisfy your hunger and quench your thirst for righteousness?

Our Goal: We must try to lead a balanced life. If we do a lot of “worldly” things, such as watch TV, play video games, or read unedifying novels, we must set aside time, no matter where we are, for God. That means putting down what we’re doing and praying or reading the Bible, listening to or playing hymns, etc.

5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

During lunchtime at church one afternoon, Kenny saw a 4-year-old child named Ben fall and skin his knee a little. Ben started to cry, but his parents and no one else were around. Kenny was about to simply walk by and let his parents or someone else find him. But, he had compassion on Ben and helped him up. He also took a bandage from the first aid kit for him. Then, he helped Ben find his parents.

Two weeks later, Kenny got really sick and had to stay home from school. He had a fever and his stomach kept hurting. None of the medicine he was taking was helping. He decided to pray to God for mercy during this time of sickness and about an hour later, he was feeling much better.

What can we learn from Kenny? What is the promise and blessing from God?

When are some times where we need to show mercy to others?



Our Goal: It is very important to remember that if we want mercy and forgiveness from God, we must first show mercy and forgiveness to others—at home, at school, and at church.

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

Justin's school friend Tom wanted him to go over to his house after school to watch a violent horror film. Justin knew that this movie was full of violence and that it was rated R because it had a lot of curse words. Justin decided not to go to his friend's house, instead telling his friend that he had a lot of homework and chores to do.

What can we learn from Justin? What is the promise and blessing from God?

How can we keep a pure heart?



Our Goal: When we encounter situations that challenge our holiness and the purity of our hearts, we must keep God in our hearts and rely on God. We should also try to ask ourselves this question: "What would Jesus do?"

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

Preston would always get angry and yell at his younger sister for taking his toys and games without asking. His younger sister would also borrow his pencils and break them by accident. In retaliation, he would go over and find something of his sister's and break it, too. His parents kept telling him that he should not pick on his younger sister. Preston learned about this Beatitude during SSC and decided to ask God to help him control his anger so that he could be a peacemaker instead. Therefore, after SSC, with help from his parents, he talked with his sister about other people's property and resolved their situation without fighting or yelling.



What can we learn from Preston? What is the promise and blessing from God?

How should we be peacemakers? Do you ever have fights or conflicts with other people, your friends, or your family? How will you apply this Beatitude to those tough problems that you have with other people?

Our Goal: Jesus is the Prince of Peace. We should try to be more like Jesus—He never fought or hurt the people who accused Him and persecuted Him. He didn't even fight with those who wanted to kill Him. We must keep the peace of Jesus in our hearts every day.

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



It was Halloween and Wesley was the only one in his school's class that did not wear a costume because it was against the teachings of the Bible. He felt a little left out and his friends kept making fun of him for being different, which made him feel even worse. But deep down inside, Wesley knew that this was the right thing to do in God's eyes. He didn't want to conform to the pattern of this world. Therefore, he determined that no matter how hard his friends laughed at him, he would stand his ground.

What can we learn from Wesley? What is the promise and blessing from God?

What should we do to prepare ourselves for persecution? How will you stand up for your faith and keep the commandments of God?

Our Goal: Remember that we must set ourselves apart from others. We cannot do some of the things others in the world do. Being righteous means we must do the right thing and rely on God to help us stand up for righteousness and make it clear that we follow the teachings of Christ.

E2 Year 1 Book 1 Lesson 6—The Beatitudes

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (Psalm 94:12)

Instructions: Try your best to memorize the Beatitudes and then fill in the blanks.

Blessed are the _____ in _____,
for theirs is the _____ of _____.

Blessed are those who _____,
for they shall be _____.

Blessed are the _____,
for they shall _____ the earth.

Blessed are those who _____ and _____ for righteousness,
for they shall be _____.

Blessed are the _____,
for they shall obtain _____.

Blessed are the _____,
for they shall see _____.

Blessed are the _____,
for they shall be called _____.

Blessed are those who are _____ for _____' sake,
for theirs is the _____ of _____.