

Beatitudes

Matthew 5:3-11



New Testament 1
Part 2: The Sermon on the Mount

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 1 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 5:1-12; Luke 6:20-26

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"
(Philippians 4:4).

OLDER CHILDREN: Memorize Matthew 5:3-10, the Beatitudes. See Jeff Miller's "Kids Prep" CD to hear the Beatitudes as a song for ease in memorization.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site

- ["The Beatitudes"](#)
- ["I've Got Peace Like a River"](#)
- ["If You're Happy and You Know It"](#)
- ["I'm Happy Today, Oh, Yes I'm Happy Today"](#)
- ["This Little Christian Light of Mine"](#)
- ["The More We Read the Bible"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Jesus' Birth & Sermon](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 1 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- "Matthew Chapter Summary" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces; hillside background
- ["Map of New Testament World"](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- ["Map of Palestine"](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)
- Beatitudes flannel graph



- **Make a chart (or do a chalk talk) entitled “Way to Be.”** Use pictures or symbols to represent each of the beatitudes. For example: poor in spirit = praying hands; mourn = teardrops or sad face; gentle = foal or lamb; peacemakers and merciful = smiley face or kind face; pure in heart = heart beside list of bad attitudes with an “X” through them; persecuted = cross or angry face.
- **To create a Palestinian atmosphere, create a scene on the wall behind the teacher’s usual seat of a hillside made from brown butcher paper (and a body of water in the background).** Add a figure of Jesus and as many people (or outlines of people) as you can.
- **Use or make a “Way to Bee” bulletin board set:** print or draw bees and hives on a large bulletin board, bee note pads, and other decorations to illustrate ways that we should “bee.”
- **Put key words on sentence strips or index cards. Attach them to a magnetic board or white board as you talk about each one. Draw an arrow from the first part of each beatitude to its result.** For example: the poor in spirit → kingdom of heaven, etc.
- **On another wall of the room, or a large bulletin board, use a computer theme with the heading, “Let’s Program Our Minds with God’s Word” or “If We Put Garbage In, Garbage Will Come Out!”** Use computer note pads for matching games.
- **Instead of the hillside scene, have a wall-sized map of Palestine to show the places mentioned in Matthew 4:25ff:** Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I will be happier if I choose to do what God says is right.

[TEACHER NOTE: For this lesson, **teach only the first four beatitudes on Sunday morning** (Matthew 5:1-6). On **Wednesday night**, briefly review the setting of the sermon, and then teach **the remaining four beatitudes** (5:7-11). In each class period, give as much information as is age-appropriate for your students.]

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Jesus taught us how to make choices that will help us be happier. These choices will help us be better friends to others.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Even though Jesus is the Son of God, when He came to Earth He taught in ways that everyone can understand. He came, not only to provide a way of salvation, but to teach us how to be better people. If we will only follow what He says, we will be better at everything in our lives—a better friend, a better listener, a better student, etc.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Jesus was about 30 years old when He began to preach publicly and to perform miracles among the people (Luke 3:23). News spread quickly throughout Palestine of His teachings and His great works (Matthew 4:23-24; Mark 7:26). As His reputation grew, so did the crowds. Several

times in the Gospel accounts, we are told that “multitudes” (many times thousands of people) followed Him. In Matthew five we learn that He went up on a mountain (probably near the Sea of Galilee) so that the multitudes could see and hear Him better.

NOTE: When Jesus sat down to teach, the people knew that, like Jewish rabbis, He intended to teach very important lessons. The Greek words translated “He opened His mouth” form a Hebraism that meant much more than “He said.” They indicate that His words were spoken with great solemnity, liberty, or freedom.

The Aramaic and Hebrew expressions for “Blessed...” are more correctly translated as exclamations, rather than statements. The word “are” is italicized in most versions, indicating it is not a word in the original language but was added by translators for more fluid reading. Each beatitude should more correctly read “O the blessedness of (the poor in spirit)!”

Much of this sermon is repeated in Luke 6:20-49 in what is often called “The Sermon on the Plain.” Also note these other parallels:

Matthew 5:13—Luke 14:34-35

Matthew 5:15—Luke 8:16

Matthew 5:18—Luke 16:17

Matthew 7:7-12—Luke 11:9-13

The principles of the Sermon on the Mount are repeated many times throughout the New Testament epistles.

2. In Matthew 5-7 we can read Jesus’ longest recorded sermon. It is called the Sermon on the Mount because He was sitting on a mountain-like hill while He was teaching. The main purpose of this sermon was to teach His followers how to live a life pleasing to God and how to find joy while they were living for God. Jesus wanted them to know what true righteousness is; they were to follow **His** example. God expected them to live by higher standards than tax collectors and the religious leaders of the day. [The **scribes** and **Pharisees** often ignored what God’s Word said, instead dictating, by their own standards, what was right and wrong. Note the numerous negative references to scribes and Pharisees throughout the Sermon.] Jesus began this Sermon with what we call the “**Beatitudes**.” In the first 12 verses of Matthew five, Jesus’ words describe **attitudes** and ways that we should **be**. Each of these verses begins with the word “blessed,” which means “happy” or “fortunate.” Jesus said we will be happy (because we will be blessed by God) if we live as He describes in these verses.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Pharisees were powerful leaders of the Jews who thought they had the right to add their own rules to the Old Law or even to change the Law. They were well-known for attracting attention to themselves when they prayed, read the Scriptures, or gave money in public. Scribes were those who made copies of the Old Testament, but they were also teachers of the Law. Jesus often mentioned these two groups together, condemning them for their arrogance and unwillingness to obey God’s Law and God’s Law alone.

NOTE: The English word “**beatitude**” is not found anywhere in the Bible. It is taken from the Latin word *beatus* which means “blessed.”

3. **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”** We don’t like people that act “stuck up” and conceited, do we? And other people don’t like us if we act like we know how to do everything, like we’re the only ones who can do things right. God doesn’t like for us to act like that either (Romans 12:3). We can’t please God if we act “stuck up” toward Him and think that we don’t need to follow His rules. Jesus said that we will be happy if we are humble (not prideful and arrogant) toward God. Being humble (poor in spirit) is knowing that we don’t have all the answers without God and His Word, and it is being willing to obey Him. [“The kingdom of heaven” may refer to either heaven or to the Church. Either way, those who are part of the Lord’s Church will not receive the greatest of blessings, i.e., heaven, without being humble before God and willing to obey Him.]
4. **“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”** To mourn means to be very sorrowful for something that has happened or something that we have done. For example, we mourn when someone special to us dies, or a favorite pet gets lost, or when we’ve told a lie, or said mean things to someone. Jesus said that even when we are very sad about something, He will comfort us (make us feel better) (Isaiah 61:2). God’s Word can make us feel better when we are sad, and talking to God in prayer can make us feel better. God also gives us good friends and Christians who can help us when we are very sad.
5. **“Blessed are the meek [gentle], for they shall inherit the earth.”** Being gentle does not mean that we are weak. It means that we have learned how to control ourselves (our actions, our tempers, our words) and are willing to do that. A horse is a very strong animal, but it can be trained to use its strength to do good things (to control itself). Being meek means that when someone says unkind things to us, we are not mean back to them. It also means that sometimes we let others make the choice instead of having our way all the time.
6. **“Blessed are those that hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”** Righteousness comes from obeying God’s Word (Psalm 119:172). Jesus used the words “hunger” and “thirst” to describe how much we should want to learn from God’s Word how He wants us to live (Psalm 42:1-2). We rarely miss a meal, and when we do, we are very anxious to eat again. We should be hungry to learn more and more from God’s Word, never being satisfied. Jesus said we will be blessed as we study, and we will “be filled,” i.e., find what we are searching for. [Give each child a tiny pinch of candy or a tiny M&M®. Tell them, “That’s all you can have. Is that enough? What would you be willing to do to get more?” When the children say that they want more, tell them this is the way we should be about God’s Word. We always should want more.]

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for Complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- [“Beatitudes Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“‘Bee’ Like Jesus Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Help kids make their own “Way to Bee” charts (as described under “Recommended Additional Visuals”)
- Beatitudes Game: Write some of each verse on the chalkboard, going over each word carefully. Then erase a key word and ask them to guess which word is missing.

- Write the memory verse on a sheet of first grade writing paper. Give each child (or pairs of children) strips of paper with the individual words written on them. Encourage them to follow the pattern on the sheet which you have written.
- Make “Bee” craft: Draw (or print) a bee body with “Ways to Bee! Matthew 5:1-12” printed on it. Have the children color the bee and make wings out of yellow tissue paper to attach to the back of the bee.
- Matching review game: Have bee cutouts and hives. Have questions from the lesson written on the hives and have answers on the bees. The teacher hands out bees and helps the children read their bee. Then the teacher reads the questions on each hive and sees who has the bee to stick on that hive.

1st-2nd Graders:

- “[Beatitudes](#)” word search (provided in activity sheets)
- Help kids make their own “Way to Bee” charts (as described under “Recommended Additional Visuals”)
- Write the Beatitudes on a half-sheet of poster board, leaving blanks for key words. Write the key words on milk jug lids or strips of paper. Make two or three sets (poster boards and lids). Divide the class into two or three teams and let them “fill in the blanks” with the milk jug lids while they are being timed (with an egg timer).
- Write the first and second parts of each Beatitude on strips of construction paper or sentence strips (“Blessed are the poor in spirit/for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”). Pin or tape each part on different children. Then ask other class members to put the correct parts together by putting the correct children next to one another.
- Matching review game: Have bee cutouts and hives. Have questions from the lesson written on the hives and have answers on the bees. The teacher hands out bees and helps the children read their bee. Then the teacher reads the questions on each hive and sees who has the bee to stick on that hive.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Advanced Bible Reader: Have the kids read Matthew 5 (and chapters 1-4, if they have not done so this quarter). [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the Matthew 1-5 quiz from AP’s [Advanced Bible Reader](#) (ABR) site. Have each of the children take the quiz. If you have not already, outside of class, make ABR accounts for each of the children and put their answers into the ABR quiz for each child. Show them their scores in the next Bible class, and explain what ABR is.
- “[Beatitudes](#)” word search (provided in activity sheets)
- Write the Beatitudes on a half-sheet of poster board, leaving blanks for key words. Write the key words on milk jug lids or strips of paper. Make two or three sets (poster boards and lids). Divide the class into two or three teams and let them “fill in the blanks” with the milk jug lids while they are being timed (with an egg timer).
- Write the first and second parts of each Beatitude on strips of construction paper or sentence strips (“Blessed are the poor in spirit/for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”). Pin or tape each part on different children. Then ask other class members to put the correct parts together by putting the correct children next to one another.
- Have the students work on memorizing the Beatitudes.
- Give different situations where the Beatitudes could apply (i.e. someone who always talks about themselves; someone who always stirs up trouble between friends). Have students choose the correct Beatitude that would “fix” or go with each situation.

SONGS:

“THE BEATITUDES”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Kids Prep](#)” CD)

“I’VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: American Spiritual

I’ve got peace like a river. (REPEAT)
I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.
(REPEAT)

I’ve got joy like a fountain. (REPEAT)
I’ve got joy like a fountain in my soul.
(REPEAT)

I’ve got love like an ocean. (REPEAT)
I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul.
(REPEAT)

I’ve got peace like a river.
I’ve got joy like a fountain.
I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul.
(REPEAT)

“THIS LITTLE CHRISTIAN LIGHT OF MINE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

This little Christian light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine. (REPEAT 2X)
Let it shine all the time, let it shine.
(Hold up finger and move in circle motion while singing.)

All around the neighborhood, I’m gonna let it shine. (REPEAT 2X)
Let it shine all the time, let it shine.
(Move finger in large circle while singing.)

Don’t let Satan (blow on finger) it out. (REPEAT 2X)
I’m gonna let it shine.
Let it shine all the time, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, NO! (Put finger under other hand.) I’m gonna let it shine! (REPEAT 2X)
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

“THE MORE WE READ THE BIBLE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “The More We Get Together”)

The more we read the Bible, the Bible, the Bible,
The more we read the Bible, the happier we’ll be.
We’ll learn about Jesus and how we can please Him.
The more we read the Bible, the happier we’ll be.

“IF YOU’RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT”

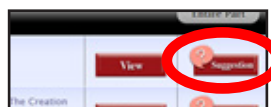
[See Internet for words and tune]

“I’M HAPPY TODAY, OH YES, I’M HAPPY TODAY”

[See Internet for words and tune]

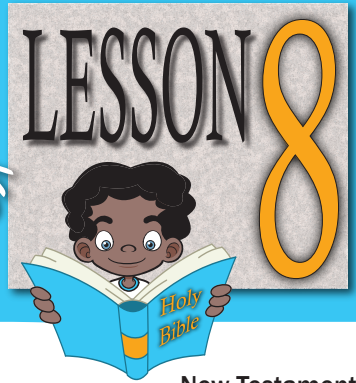
*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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Matthew 5:3-11



New Testament 1
Part 2: The Sermon on the Mount

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

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MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"
(Philippians 4:4).

OLDER CHILDREN: Memorize Matthew 5:3-10, the Beatitudes. See Jeff Miller's "Kids Prep" CD to hear the Beatitudes as a song for ease in memorization.)

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LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

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- ["Map of Palestine"](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)



- **Rebecca McGoogle flipchart**

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I will be happier if I choose to do what God says is right.

[TEACHER NOTE: For this lesson, **teach only the first four beatitudes on Sunday morning** (Matthew 5:1-6). On **Wednesday night**, briefly review the setting of the sermon, and then teach **the remaining four beatitudes** (5:7-11). In each class period, give as much information as is age-appropriate for your students.]

INTRODUCTION:

Review Sunday's lesson (see [N.T. 1 Review Questions](#) for example questions).

[N.T. 1 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under "N.T. 1 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. **"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."** Jesus said we will be happy if we are willing to forgive others who hurt us. Being merciful (forgiving) is treating others as we want to be treated when we make mistakes (James 2:13; Matthew 6:12,14,15). If we want God to forgive us of our mistakes, we must be forgiving to others when they repent (Luke 17:3-4).
2. **"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."** Pure water is water without any trash (pollutants) in it; it is clean. A pure or clean heart is a heart without any "trash" in it. When we watch TV programs or movies that have a lot of violence and bad language in them, we are putting trash in our minds that is very hard to get rid of. We must be careful about the people we spend a lot of time with, about the music we listen to, about the TV programs and movies we watch, and about the books that we read, because without a pure heart we will not see God in heaven (Philippians 4:8). (This can be emphasized with a glass of clean water and a glass of dirty water. Ask the children which they would rather drink.)
3. **"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."** Jesus said we will be happy if we try to help others get along and if we don't cause trouble among our friends or at home. We will be happy if we try every way possible to avoid conflict/trouble (Romans 12:18)—without compromising God's laws or our consciences, of course.
4. **"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."** Jesus said that sometimes others will mistreat us if we try to do what is right. The Bible tells us about many people who were terribly abused because they followed Jesus. Jesus Himself suffered a great deal. In the United States, we aren't beaten or mistreated like some in other countries, but sometimes people make fun of us because we believe the Bible and try to follow it. Whatever happens to us when we choose to do right/to follow Jesus, we know that God is happy and will bless us.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning's lesson.

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