

BOLD TRANSFORMATIONAL FAITH

Sunday School



January 29, 2023 | The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:1-12

Materials Needed: Strips of colored paper, markers or other writing utensils, note paper

Welcome:

Check in with your Sunday Schoolers!

- How was your week?
- What has been on your mind recently?
- What is a question that you want answered? (Literally about anything!)

Get to Know You Questions:

- Get to know your group!
 - What is your favorite peanut butter brand?
 - What is your favorite cereal?
 - Are you a morning person, or a night owl?



Book!

Read the story together!

Matthew 5:3-12

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

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

9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil

against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Let's talk about it!

- What do you think Jesus is telling us in this reading?
- What surprised you about this reading?
- Imagine that you are there, hearing this from the mouth of Jesus.
 - Why do you think that Jesus shared this?
 - What is something that you take away from this?
- Jesus knows that living a Christian life isn't going to be easy all of the time. Where does Jesus say our reward rests?
 - What does this mean for us today?
- If Jesus was in the room telling you "The Beatitudes" today, what would sound the same? What would sound different?
- Jesus is telling us to have hope! Life is sometimes easy, and sometimes it can be really hard. But something that Jesus promises to us is that he will always be with us, and God's blessings will always be with us, no matter what!



Look!

(Younger Sunday Schoolers)

Have your class pick out a verse from the Beatitudes that you like the most. Then, have your Sunday Schoolers write it on a big piece of paper! Surrounding the words, have them draw examples of what this could look like in daily life for them. For example, for "peacemakers", they could draw a picture of someone putting a stop to bullying. Or, for the sad, have them draw Jesus (or them!) cheering someone up.

When they are finished, have them hang this up by other classes or in your own. Explore together what it means to be examples of Jesus, and spreading hope!

(Older Sunday Schoolers)

Thinking about the Beatitudes in Modern Day!

Today, we are going to do an activity that will look similar to "rewriting" the beatitudes. We don't want to change what they say, rather, we want them to be more relevant to what we may see and hear in our everyday lives.

Tell your confirmands that they will be taking each verses, verses by verse, and thinking of times in their lives where they might experience those things, or things similar. We're going to write them out in a way that makes sense to us - like they were written for us directly.

For example...

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Can be re-written as...

"Those who are discouraged, sad, or feeling low. God is with them always."

And...

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Could be something like...

"Blessed are those who go out of their way to sit by the lonely person at the lunch table, those who stand up for those being bullied, and those who are kind when others aren't. We know that they are examples of Christ with us every day."

Once you are done, share with each other, and find a way to draw this out or put it on paper somewhere where it can serve as a reminder throughout the year to continue having hope.



Took!

The take-away for today is that we can have HOPE and that GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US! We receive God's blessings every single day.

Today, we're going to decorate our Sunday School Room or area with a HOPE chain! Have your Sunday Schoolers take strips of construction paper, and write something hopeful and encouraging on it. When they are done, staple them together in chain fashion, like the picture example below. You can hang this over your door, or another visible space in the classroom, to remind the Sunday Schoolers that wherever they go and however they feel, God is always with them, and they can forever have hope.



Here are some examples of things they can write...

- God is with us always!
- God shares his blessings with us every day.
- God loves you.
- God cares for you!
- We can have HOPE for the future!
- Those who are sad will find peace from God.
- We can bring light to those in need.
- ...or whatever you choose to come up with on your own!



Closing Prayer

Jesus, we thank you for this impactful message for us then, now, and always. We know that we find our hope and perseverance in you when life feels great, and when life feels hard. We love you and thank you every day! Amen.