



FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of January 22, 2023: Matthew 5:1-20

Memory Verse

Matthew 5:9: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"

Game

Match the Beatitude

You will need: card stock or notecards, markers

Game 1: Make flashcards with the first half of the Beatitude on the front, the remainder on the back and see if you can complete the sentence.

Game 2: For each Beatitude, write the first half on one card, the remainder of the statement on another card. Mix them up and turn them face-down. Take turns flipping one over and then trying to find the match, like the game Concentration. Kingdom of Heaven is used twice, almost like a wild card.

The Story

Theme of the story: The Beatitudes are the start of a section in Matthew called the Sermon on the Mount. There were so many people who wanted to see Jesus that he had to go up on a mountain so they could see him. Jesus starts his sermon with the Beatitudes or the blessings. Jesus told people that God loves them as they are.

Retelling of the story and Family Discussion: Read the Bible verses out loud. If it's too much to do it all at once, stretch it out throughout the week!

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

What it means: When Jesus says "poor" he means "without". Jesus wants us to be humble. Jesus wants us to be happy with what we have right now, without wanting more. Try: Make a list of all the things you are grateful for. You could also try to go a whole day without asking for anything you want, only what you need.

2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

What it means: If you are sad, then be sad. Feelings are a good thing. We are not always happy. Different things might make us feel sad but know that being upset doesn't last forever. Try: Think about a recent time when you saw someone else feeling sad. Make a card for that person to help them feel comforted and know you are thinking about them.

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

7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. What it means: God wants us to be at peace with others – not fighting, arguing, or hurting people or their feelings. Jesus is the ultimate peacemaker. Try: Go all day without arguing with someone. Think about their side of a discussion or disagreement.

8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. What it means: Persecution is a big word but it simply means to be hurt or attacked for who you are or what you believe in. We should do the right thing, even if people say mean things or make fun of us. Sometimes, people who don't understand your faith will question you, and might even make jokes. But just remember, you are being true to God. Try: When you go somewhere new, look around at all the other people. Introduce yourself to one new person. Remember, these people are God's children, no matter what age they are, what they look like, or what they believe.

What it means: Meek can refer to someone who is gentle and does not take out their frustrations on others. It can be someone who can control their behavior when they get frustrated. Another interpretation is that this is referring to patience. We should wait patiently, without creating a fuss or complaining. Try: Talk about what you can do when you get frustrated.

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

What it means: Jesus wasn't talking about having a growly tummy or being thirsty. He was talking about people who want unfair things to be fixed in their community and around the world. These unfair things are called injustices. Racism and poverty are examples of injustices. Try: Go through your old toys or clothes and donate some to a local organization or women and children's shelter.

5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

What it means: God wants us to forgive and not hold grudges. We might be upset with our friends or family, but we should not stay mad. We should allow our hearts to forgive and remember that God always forgives us. Try: When someone says "I'm sorry" or makes an apology, listen to their words and try to forgive them.

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

What it means: It is easy to understand doing the right thing on the outside for others to see. Jesus is talking about changing how we feel on the inside and doing the right thing for the right reason. Try: Find time each day to pray. Older children can keep a prayer journal. Younger children can keep a journal by drawing pictures.

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