

LESSON 13

The Sermon on the Mount-The Beatitudes

MATTHEW 5:1-12



BIBLE TRUTH

BECAUSE OF CHRIST, WE CAN BE SALT AND LIGHT TO THE WORLD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 91)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 13—one for each child; markers or crayons

Remember the Beatitudes

SUPPLIES: a puppet

Persecution Puppet Skit

SUPPLIES: a puppet

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn about how Jesus taught from on top of a mountain.

Ask the class why they think Jesus taught the crowds from on top a mountain. (By standing on a high place Jesus' voice could be heard more easily and he could be seen by more people.)

Demonstrate this to the children. Have them all gather around you. Then get down on your knees and begin to talk softly. Ask if anyone is having trouble seeing or hearing you. Then stand on a chair and begin to talk. Ask the class if they can hear and see you better. Explain to the children that Jesus' message was so important that he wanted everyone to be able to hear it clearly.

When you read today's Bible story, do it standing on a chair to emphasize the fact that Jesus taught from on top a mountain.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 91, "The Sermon on the Mount—The Beatitudes," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What happened in this story?**
(Jesus went up onto the mountain to teach the crowds.)

- **Why did so many people follow Jesus?**
(Jesus was performing miracles and healings that amazed the people and made them eager to follow him.)

- **Who did Jesus have with him?**
(Jesus had his disciples with him.)

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Jesus, in Matthew 5:17, said that he came to fulfill the law and prophets. Look at Isaiah's words: "But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). Jesus' death on the cross fulfills those words.

When you add up all of the prophecies that point forward to the sacrifice of Jesus, it is truly amazing that he fulfilled them all.

Jesus would be the one to fulfill the righteous life he described in the Beatitudes. We need not strive to obey Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount to earn God's favor; we strive to obey because we have already been forgiven and made righteous. Now, free of the condemnation of the law, we can follow the way of the law by following Jesus. If we should fall into sin, we need not be condemned. Instead, we confess our sin, and by the blood of Jesus our sins are covered.

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What does the word "blessed" mean?**
(When Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn," and the other blessings, he was saying that the mourners would be honored. In each case, Jesus goes on to say how they will be honored. For instance, those who mourn will be comforted. The honor results in happiness. Some translations use the word happy instead of blessed.)
- **Why would Jesus say those who were poor in spirit would be blessed?**
(Jesus was pointing the crowd to heaven. In heaven, we have a greater joy than earthly happiness and prosperity.)
- **How could thinking of heaven help someone who is suffering?**
(We live on earth for perhaps eighty years, but we will live in heaven forever! Revelation 21:4 says, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.")

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 13—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why did Jesus go up on the mountain to teach the crowds?**
(He went up on the mountain so that more people could see and hear him.)
- **What do you like about what Jesus taught?**
(Accept any answer.)
- **What did Jesus say we would get a reward in heaven for?**
(In Matthew 5:11–12 Jesus teaches that if someone says evil things about you because you follow Jesus you will get a great reward in heaven.)

Remember the Beatitudes

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a puppet

Read through the Beatitudes and see if the children (with the puppet’s help) can remember each blessing after you say the first part. The puppet, or a helper, can whisper the answers to the children. Remember these associations are too advanced for the children to understand on their own, so dialogue with the helper and discuss what each of them means.

- poor in spirit—kingdom of heaven
- mourners—comforted
- meek—inherit the earth
- hunger and thirst for righteousness—satisfaction
- merciful—mercy

- pure in heart—see God
- peacemakers—sons of God
- persecuted for righteousness sake—kingdom of heaven
- persecuted because of Jesus—great reward in heaven

After you have repeated them a few times see how many of the Beatitudes the children can remember.

Persecution Puppet Skit

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a puppet (a puppet made from a brown lunch bag with a simple face drawn on it or a stuffed animal can work just fine)

TEACHER: Hi Puppet!

PUPPET: (*sadly*) Hi.

TEACHER: What is wrong, Puppet? You sound sad.

PUPPET: I am sad. A kid in my neighborhood told me to go home and called me a goodie-goodie.

TEACHER: Why did he do that?

PUPPET: I told him I would have to ask my mom first before I left my yard. He just laughed at me and ran, leaving me all by myself to play.

TEACHER: Were you obeying your mom?

PUPPET: Yes.

TEACHER: Then you should be rejoicing!

PUPPET: Rejoicing?

TEACHER: Yes, rejoicing. When we obey our parents we are obeying God's authority given to us in our parents. That means when we obey our parents we are honoring God. If people make fun of us when we obey God's Word, that is called persecution. Jesus said that those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake inherit the kingdom of heaven. Puppet, you did the right thing and that honors God. I'm glad you didn't disobey your mom. Aren't you?

PUPPET: Wow, I guess I really did a good thing to obey God!

Draw the children out and see if they can retell the skit. Use the puppet to give clues.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

