

Jesus Taught About Character

Matthew 5

Q: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?

A: Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

-Matthew 5:3-6



PREPARE HEARTS

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome | "Who is Blessed" Activity Page | 5 minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Session Starter | Build a Kingdom Activity | 5-10 minutes |



ACTIVE HEARTS

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9:20 - Whole Group Lesson in LG2 | | 20 minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups | Review and Discuss Bible Story | 10-15 minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups | Reflection and Prayer | 5 minutes |



ENGAGE HEARTS

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Questions from Kids Video | Discuss | 5 minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Key Passage Activity | Create hand motions for verse | 5-10 minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Let Your Light Shine Activity | Sticky note drawings | 10-15 minutes |

REMINDERS

The VIP meeting will be 8:30-8:40 in C1. Attend for: Vision/Information/Prayer. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS:

We want our kids to:

***KNOW** that Jesus is the only one who can make them truly happy.

***BE** different from the rest of the world

***LIVE** in a way that brings honor and glory to God!



GRADES 1-2

KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW

Sept. 24, 2023
1st Service

SHEPHERD GUIDE

What do you think would happen if you stomped on a ketchup packet?

Would you expect only air to escape the contents of the packet? Undoubtedly, the pressure of the stomp would result in an explosion of ketchup, and perhaps a messy shoe.

Oddly enough, we don't always predict our responses to specific situations accurately. In moments of extreme pressure or challenge, we are surprised at our own responses and decisions.

The beginning of The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5 contains what we often call the 'Beatitudes.' In these eight verses, there are specific descriptions of people who could be seen in a negative light. Poor, mourning, humbled, hungry, thirsty, and persecuted are all words that describe a posture seen as less than favorable in our culture. Yet, this text speaks of the blessing of each of them.

The blessings result through a Godcentered perspective. The poor in spirit, hungry, humble are those who have set their hope in God and His eternal kingdom. The poor in spirit have recognized that they are utterly lost without God. Those who mourn acknowledge the guilt of their sin and the pain of a broken world. The hungry and thirsty understand that nothing in this world will satisfy like Jesus. The character of the people of God reveals a response of faith in Him.

Who we are isn't determined by how we respond to pain and hardship; however, our character is often displayed in these moments. The choices we make and the way in which we fill ourselves during times of peace and rest are often revealed during high-pressure situations. Those being transformed by the power of God will display faithfulness and virtue in these times. Those not gripped by the Spirit of God will display their graceless state.

Don't be surprised that what you have filled yourself with comes out when you are pressed. And don't be surprised when God shows Himself to you in a distinct way in these times of trouble.

TERMS TO KNOW

Bless: the act of saying or wishing good for others



When the children arrive, introduce yourself, ask them their name, welcome them to the class, and invite them to play with the other children. When most kids have arrived for first service, ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.



PREPARE HEARTS

OPENING QUESTIONS: What is a kingdom? Who rules a kingdom? How do you think a king should act in his kingdom? Why?

Invite kids to complete "Who Is Blessed?" on the activity page.

WELCOME

**"Who is
Blessed?"**

activity
page, pencils

SAY Today, we will learn that people in God's kingdom live differently than how the world tells us we should live. Jesus promises blessings to those who live like children of His kingdom.



STARTER

Build a Kingdom

Building blocks
or legos

Form kids into small groups of three or four and distribute building blocks to each group. Challenge kids to work together to design and build a kingdom using the blocks. Allow plenty of time for each group to build their kingdom. Once everyone has had a chance to complete their kingdom, take turns allowing each group to show their kingdom to the entire group.

SAY: When we think of a kingdom, we usually think of huge castles or rich rulers and fancy people. But God's kingdom does not look like the world's kingdom. In today's story, we will learn that God's kingdom is better than any kingdom of this world because Jesus is the King and His people act like Him.



ACTIVE MINDS

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

9:25 – 1st – 3rd Grade
take class to LG2

2nd and 3rd graders –
bring Bibles

Taught by Large Group Shepherd:

Hi, kids! I'm so glad you are here! My name is [your name], and today we are going to learn about important truths Jesus shared with His followers. If you have your Bible with you, will you take it out and place it on your lap?

[Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

The Bible is God's Word. Through His Word, God teaches us about the blessings of following Him. He also teaches us the best way to live. God, the Creator, designed the world to work in the best way and made us to reflect Him. But sin has damaged God's good design and people do not perfectly act like Him. Jesus came to save us from sin and make us new so that we can reflect God. In today's story, we learn what Jesus said about how to live as people of the kingdom of God.

SAY: We will learn a new big picture question and answer that we will practice remembering over the next several weeks. This big picture question and answer will help us remember an important truth about the message Jesus shared while He was on earth. Our big picture question is, **What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?**

The answer to our big picture question is, **Jesus taught about God and His Kingdom.**

He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

The whole Bible tells the story of God's plan to save sinners through faith in Jesus. When we place our faith in Jesus, we are able to enter God's kingdom and we are also able to live in a way that shows others what Jesus is like. Let's say our big picture question and answer again: **What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His Kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him**

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY: For the past several weeks, we have been learning about the miracles Jesus performed during His time on earth. We learned how Jesus calmed a storm, healed the sick, and even brought a little girl back to life. These miracles proved Jesus is God. But Jesus also taught God's Word and His teachings showed that He is God too. Today, we will begin learning how Jesus taught people what it means to follow Him.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

REVIEW THE TIMELINE

JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT CHARACTER

Bibles, Bible story picture poster

Open your Bible to Matthew 5.

You can use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story.

STORYTELLING TIPS:

Use a flashlight: Turn on a flashlight when you teach that believers are the light of the world.

Use movement: Stand on one side of the room when you say the first half of each blessed statement. Then move to the other side of the room when you say the second half.

Great crowds of people followed Jesus wherever He went. **One day, Jesus went up on a mountain.** He sat down **and began to teach about the kingdom of God.**

First, Jesus taught about the blessings that come to those who follow Him. **He said:**

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

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

Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

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

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

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

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

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.”

Then Jesus taught how believers should live. **Jesus said** that believers are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. **“Let your light shine before others so that they may see the good things you do and praise God.”**

Then Jesus taught about God’s law. Jesus did not come to get rid of the law, but to obey it perfectly. He said that to enter heaven, a person can’t just look righteous on the outside—like the religious leaders. A person must be righteous on the inside too, obeying God for the right reasons.

Jesus said, “Love your enemies, and pray for them. If you do this, you will be true children of your Father in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both the good and the evil, and He causes rain to fall on both the righteous and unrighteous. If you only love those who love you, what reward will you get for that? Even people who don’t know God do that. **Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”**

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus taught people what it means to follow Him. He taught how people should live. People who trust in Jesus live to honor God and show what His kingdom is like.

****End of Large Group Time - Take children back to individual classrooms****



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

Small Groups
with Table
Leaders

Blank paper,
Bible Story
coloring page,
colored
pencils/crayons

SAY: As Jesus was surrounded by the crowd, He taught about the kingdom of God and what it means to follow Him. Do you think following Jesus' teachings is hard to do? Why? [Allow responses.]

It is challenging to be humble, be a peacemaker, show mercy, and even love our enemies. This type of character does not come naturally to us because of our sinful hearts. Even when we want to do what is right and good, we mess up and act opposite of God's commands.

But even though God's commands are hard, Jesus taught that He did not come to get rid of the law. What did Jesus say He did with the law?

[Allow responses.]

Jesus said He came to perfectly obey the law and do all it commanded. Jesus lived the perfect life for us. Why is this good news? [Allow responses.]

This is good news because we cannot obey God's commands perfectly. Jesus obeyed for us and when we trust in Him, He washes away our sin and gives us His perfect goodness.

Since Jesus has made us new in Him, we can now live like Him. We can be humble. We can seek to be people who make peace with others. We want to do what is right and good. We can love our enemies. When we follow Jesus' teachings, we show others what Jesus is like. We show others that Jesus has not just changed how we act, but He has given us new hearts that now want to be like Him and live for His kingdom.



Reflection and Prayer

Small Groups
with Table
Leaders

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.



ENGAGE HEARTS

Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the "Unit 23, Session 1" questions from kids video.

Prompt kids to discuss:

1. If we sometimes lie or say mean things are we still Christians? Why?
2. Why is it important that we obey God for the right reasons?



Key Passage Activity

Key Passage
Poster, Ball

Show the key passage poster.
Lead kids in reading aloud Matthew 5:3-6 together.

SAY: Jesus taught about character. He taught that people are blessed when they follow Him. When we live like Jesus taught, others see Him in us and give God the glory.

Direct kids to stand in a circle.
Instruct kids to read the key passage poster together.
Start with the leader holding the ball.

Say the first part of the verse - "Blessed are the...." and throw the ball to someone to finish (poor in spirit). Then have them throw the ball back to you. Continue with the next phrase - "for theirs is the...." and throw the ball to someone else to finish (for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Then have them throw the ball back to you again. Continue with the rest of the phrases for verses 3-6. Repeat as time allows.



Let Your Light Shine Activity

Poster with light
bulb picture,
sticky notes,
pencils, colored
pencils

Stick the light bulb poster on the white board with magnets.

Provide each kid with a sticky note and markers.
Prompt kids to think about ways they can show others what Jesus is like and shine for Him.
Invite a few kids to share their ideas.
Then lead kids to draw a picture on their sticky notes of a way they can live for Jesus and show others what He is like.
Allow kids to finish their drawings and place their sticky notes on the light bulb.
Invite kids to share what they drew for the rest of the group.

SAY: God's ways are best. Living for God not only glorifies Him, but it is also how we show love to others. When people see the light of Jesus at work in us, it can encourage them to want to know more about Jesus. I hope you will take time this week to find a way to let your light shine before others.