

## 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	"Light it Up" Activity Page	5 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> Session Starter	Great Rewards Activity	5-10 minutes



## ACTIVE HEARTS

<input type="checkbox"/> 9:20 - Whole Group Lesson in LG2		20-25 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups	Review and Discuss Bible Story	10 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups	Journal and Prayer	5 minutes



## ENGAGE HEARTS

<input type="checkbox"/> Questions from Kids Video	Discuss	5 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> Key Passage Activity	Reciting verse while passing a ball	5-10 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/> What's Inside? Activity	Unwrapping boxes	10 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 3-4

## 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

### WELCOME

### "Light It Up"

activity  
page, pencils

### OPENING QUESTIONS:

What is character?

How would you describe someone who displays good character?

Invite kids to complete "Light It Up?" on the activity page.

**Say:** Today, we will learn how Jesus taught people to let their light shine bright so others may see their good works and give praise to God.



## STARTER

### Great Rewards

Form kids into four groups. Assign each group one of the following scenarios to act out:

- Comforting someone who is sad or hurt
- Feeding people who are hungry
- Creating peace from an argument
- Praising God when others persecute you

Tell each group to keep their scenario a secret. Allow a few minutes for groups to prepare a short skit to act out their scenarios. Then invite groups one at a time to act them out while everyone else tries to guess what they are doing.

**SAY:** Today, we will learn that people in God's kingdom live differently and display Christlike character. We will also learn that God rewards those who live for Him by faith. Not only do we have the eternal reward of living with God forever in His kingdom, but we also experience the reward of being happy in the Lord now.



## 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.]

Throughout the next several weeks, we will be reading Bible stories about Jesus' teachings. Jesus is an amazing teacher and taught with authority because He is truth. But Jesus is more than just an amazing teacher. He is the Son of God. When we read what Jesus taught, we can remember that His teachings help us know how we can live with Him forever. Today, we will learn that Jesus taught how His followers can reflect His character to the world.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

**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**

### REVIEW THE TIMELINE

**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.

## 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.

**Encourage kids** to give some examples of ways they can love their enemies when you teach that part of the story

**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

Journal page,  
pencils

**SAY:** Sometimes we can read Jesus' teachings and find them confusing. Oftentimes we are confused because Jesus' kingdom is very different from our world. The life and teachings of Jesus show us that Jesus' kingdom reveals the character of God. This means that what the world says is weak is really strong. Or what the world says is ridiculous is really wise. We must renew our minds through God's truth to better understand His ways.

As Jesus taught, He told the crowd that there are blessings for those who follow Him. *Who were some of the people that will be blessed?* Look at Matthew 5:3-11. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 5:3-11.]

The poor in spirit, the humble, those who mourn, peacemakers, and others who reflect faith in God through the way they live will be blessed. Not only do we have the hope of a future blessing in heaven, but we have the assurance of experiencing joy in God now through His Spirit at work in us.

Jesus said that we are like salt and light to a world that does not know Him when our works follow His commands. *But do our works save us?* [Allow responses.] No, our works do not save us. Still, Jesus said the law was important. *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. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us a new heart with new desires. Now, we can obey God by faith and live in a way that shows others what He is like. We can love our enemies, forgive others, and endure persecution. We honor God and show our love for Him when we live for His kingdom.



## Journal and Prayer

Small Groups  
with Table  
Leaders

Distribute journal pages and pencils.  
Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page.  
As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?



## 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.



## What's Inside? Activity

4 wrapped  
boxes, Bibles

Inside each beautifully wrapped box is a gross item!

**Form** kids into four groups and provide each group with a box.

**Invite** groups to guess what might be wrapped in their box.

**Discuss** how pretty the boxes are wrapped. After each group has decided what their box might hold, lead groups to unwrap the boxes and reveal the contents.

Emphasize how such a pretty box could hold such gross items. Then invite two kids to read **Matthew 23:27-28** and **Philippians 3:9**.

**SAY:** In our story, Jesus taught that people can't just look righteous on the outside but must be clean inside. These boxes looked pretty, but when you opened them they were filled with rottenness. Our obedience to Jesus' teachings doesn't make us clean. We are only made righteous by faith in Jesus. As we obey by faith and out of love for God, we display character that reflects Jesus.