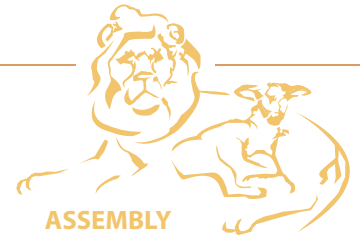


THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT – THE BEATITUDES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 5:1-12



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

GUESS THE BEATITUDES

Go through the Beatitudes and see if the children can first guess what each blessing will be.

- Poor in spirit – Kingdom of heaven
- Those who mourn – Comforted
- The meek – Inherit the earth
- Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness – They shall be satisfied
- Merciful – Mercy
- Pure in heart – Shall see God
- Peacemakers – Shall be called sons of God
- Persecuted for righteousness sake – Kingdom of heaven
- Persecuted on Jesus' account – A great reward in heaven

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

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT – THE BEATITUDES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 5:1-12

PERSECUTION

The term persecution is unfamiliar to most children. Explain to them that all countries are not free to worship and share the gospel. In some countries, people must go to church in secret so that they are not arrested.

Here in our country, persecution comes most when people make fun of our worship and devotion to Christ. Read about the apostle Paul in Philippians 1:13-14. Paul was being persecuted for what he believed.

PUPPET SKIT FOR PERSECUTION

Teacher: Hi Puppet!

Puppet: (with a sad voice) 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?

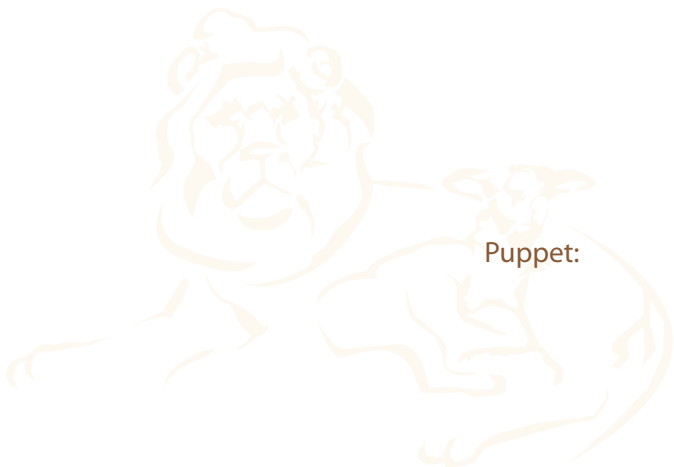
Puppet: Yes.

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's rule. Aren't you?

Puppet: Yes, I am.



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT – THE BEATITUDES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 5:1-12

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Jesus set a high standard of Christian attitudes and conduct which seems almost impossible to achieve. And He said that people who followed Him and were persecuted on His account would receive a great reward in heaven.

Jesus went on to say in Matthew 5:17 that He came to fulfill the law and prophets. Jesus would be the one to fulfill the righteous life He described in the Beatitudes. We need not strive to follow the Sermon on the Mount to earn our way into God's favor. We strive to follow the Sermon on the Mount 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.

Trying to live a perfectly righteous life apart from Christ is not possible. That is why the Pharisees failed. Though they kept a part of the law they did not keep it all. To fail at just one point is failure. Jesus gives us His righteousness, a perfect righteousness that is superior to the failed attempts we make on our own.

