

# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT – THE BEATITUDES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 5:1-12



## The STORY

Read the message Jesus gave that we now call the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12.

**Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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 were so many people following Jesus? (Jesus was performing great 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.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Jesus teaching from on the mountain side. Engage the children by asking:**

- 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 teach that you would receive a reward in heaven for? (In verse 11 and 12 of this passage Jesus teaches that if someone says evil things about you because you follow Jesus you will get a great reward in heaven.)

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### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:**

- What does the word blessed mean? (When Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor," and the other blessings, He was saying that these people 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. In fact, 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.')



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### 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.

## SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*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 worker.*

