



# Jesus Teaches: The Beatitudes

**Lesson Aim:** To know the blessings of the heart God provides for those in His kingdom.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God is:** The King Who Serves

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Matthew 5:1-12

**What He has done:** Jesus taught the crowds about God's blessings.

**Key Verse:** Matthew 5:12

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** 1 Samuel 16:7

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

"'Come, follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'" Matthew 16:24; 4:19

| Unit 2: The King Who Serves |  |   |  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
|                             | Bible Story  | What He Has Done  | Lesson Aim   |
| 7                           | Jesus Teaches: The Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-12                                | Jesus taught the crowds about God's blessings.                              | To know the blessings of the heart God provides for those in His kingdom.    |
| 8                           | Jesus and Nicodemus, John 3:1-5, 16  | Jesus answers Nicodemus' questions about salvation.                         | To consider personal salvation and discover the meaning of being born again. |
| 9                           | Jesus and the Woman at the Well, John 4:7, 10-11, 13-14, 25-26, 28-30, 41-42 | Jesus spoke with the woman at the well about eternal life and His identity. | To tell others about Jesus.  |
| 10                          | Jesus with Mary and Martha, Luke 10:38-42                                    | Jesus encouraged Martha to spend time with Him.                             | To focus on Jesus and give priority to time with Him.                        |
| 11                          | Jesus and Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10  | Jesus sought Zacchaeus and went to his home.                                | To see Jesus transforms us.  |

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Hebrews 4:16. Please join us in praying, "Thank you, Lord, for the way You draw us to You and teach us. Fill us with Your Spirit that we might teach the children. Amen."



| Segment     | Minutes  | Activity  | Supplies  |
|-------------|----------|---|---|
| THE WELCOME | Up to 15 | <b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>   | None  |
|             |          | <b>Game:</b> Blessing Card Symbols  | Sturdy paper or note cards, markers or crayons  |
| THE WORSHIP | Up to 20 | <b>Worship</b><br>Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org | <b>Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b><br>"Follow Me"<br><b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b><br>"For God So Loved the World"<br>"I Am the Way"<br>"Praise the Lord, O My Soul"<br>"Search Me, O God"<br><b>Additional Hymn Suggestion:</b><br>"I Want to Know You"<br>"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"<br><b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b><br>Absolute All Time Favorites For Kids<br>Sunday School Jamz by Worship Jamz |
|             |          | <b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b><br>Matthew 5:3  | Bible   |
|             |          | <b>Offering</b>   | Baskets   |
|             |          | <b>Worship Illustration</b>   | Lesson 7 Kingdom Adventures script or storybook   |
| THE WORD    | Up to 10 | <b>Read the Word:</b> Matthew 5:1-12  | Map—Sea of Galilee with surrounding hillside, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters  |
| THE WAY     | Up to 25 | <b>Discuss the Word</b>   | Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters  |
|             |          | <b>Christ Connection:</b><br>1 Samuel 16:7  |   |
|             |          | <b>Match-Up Mountain</b>  |   |
|             |          | <b>Golden Bowl</b>  |   |
|             | Final 5  | <b>Final Five Minutes</b>   | Treasure Treat—Beatitudes bookmark, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song "Follow Me," CD player  |
| GOT TIME?   | Up to 10 | <b>Snack:</b> Mountain of Pudding   | Pudding and wafer cookies (or another snack that can be used to make a pile)  |
|             | Up to 10 | <b>Game:</b> Blessing Buddy Charades  | Class set of Blessing Cards, bag or hat   |
|             | Up to 10 | <b>Craft:</b> Take Home Blessing Cards  | Blessing Cards pages, scissors, markers and crayons, optional: stickers or magazine pictures, rubber bands or envelopes   |
|             | Up to 10 | <b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b><br>Come, Follow Me  | Sturdy paper, marker, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster  |
|             | Up to 5  | <b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b><br>The Wave   | Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible   |
|             | Up to 5  | <b>Bible Timeline Review</b>  | Timeline  |

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

# THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.  
**Meet & Greet Question: What is the best blessing you have ever been given?**

## **GAME: BLESSING CARD SYMBOLS**

**Purpose:** Children help create the class set of Blessing Cards used in THE WAY and Got Time? segments of this lesson.

**Supplies:** Sturdy paper or note cards, markers or crayons

**Prepare:** Print a set of the 18 Blessing Cards according to the Blessing Cards template found at the end of this lesson.

**Did you know those who follow Jesus are part of the kingdom of God? Today, we will discover nine special blessings for those in God's kingdom. What does the word, "blessed" mean? (Blessed means to have real joy and happiness.) Let's begin by drawing or coloring the symbol that stands for each blessing. I have a pair of cards for each blessing Jesus described. Each card has a symbol to help us remember the blessing.**

### **Directions:**

1. Distribute the Blessing Cards amongst the children in the class with crayons or markers. (Depending on number of children, some may need to share the coloring of a card, or color several cards.)
2. Instruct the children to draw or color the symbol on their card.
3. After the coloring has been completed, collect and read the cards aloud in numerical order. These cards will be used in order during THE WAY and GOT TIME? segments of this lesson.



Jesus as the King who serves

## THE WORSHIP

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

### The Seven Stars of Lent

If this lesson is taught during the Lenten season (the 40 days before Easter), we recommend the Seven Stars of Lent activity located at [ResourceWell.org](http://ResourceWell.org) under Children - Other Resources. Choose one star for each week of the Lent season.

**Today, we worship the King who serves. King Jesus served the people of His kingdom. To serve someone is to give them what they need. Closeness to God is everyone's greatest need. It is met when we follow Jesus. Let's all worship Jesus as the only One who can give us what we truly need.**



Sing: Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Follow Me." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on Jesus as the supplier of our needs.



Read Worship Scripture: Matthew 5:3. **When Jesus says, "Poor in spirit," He is speaking of people who know how much they need Jesus. They know their spirit is poor without Him.**

**Together, we give Him our offering and sing praise to the One who knows everything we need. He is able to meet every need we have and He always does what is best for us.** Sing: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" as offering is collected.



Perform Kingdom Adventures script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 2, Lesson 7.



Jesus teaches the Beatitudes

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."**

**Last time, we learned Jesus was transfigured. How did His face and clothes change when He was on the mountain that day?** (His face shone like the sun and His clothes became bright white.) **God's voice said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him."**

**Today, we will listen carefully to Jesus as we read His nine blessings for people in the kingdom of God. These kingdom blessings are called the Beatitudes. Jesus taught about the Beatitudes and more when He spoke to a crowd on a hillside near the Sea of Galilee. We call this time of teaching, "The Sermon on the Mount."** If a map is available, show the hills surrounding the Sea of Galilee.

**Jesus taught the crowd what the followers in His kingdom are like and how He blesses them. Let's look in the Bible to hear all nine of these blessings.**



**Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals Bible Story Scripture reference: Matthew 5:1-12. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our key verse: Matthew 5:12.**

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read Matthew 5:1-12.



Remember the Beatitudes

## THE WAY

As we read the blessings, did it seem strange to hear Jesus say someone who is poor, sad, or hungry is blessed and happy? (Children respond.) How do the blessings Jesus described differ from rewards we earn or the good things we are given? (Children respond.) Kingdom blessings are very different from other blessings we find in this world. Some are received on earth and some in heaven. They are blessings of the heart that come to those who put God first and treat others with great respect. Kingdom blessings describe Jesus; how He treated others and how He was treated. Whenever His followers do what Jesus would do, they are blessed in a very big way. Read each Blessing Card including the Beatitude and description. To create Blessing Cards, see the Blessing Cards template at the end of this lesson.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus knows the needs of our hearts. He knows if we are sad. He knows if our hearts are pure or gentle. He knows if our hearts long to do what is right. He knows if our hearts are merciful and if we are peacemakers. Jesus knows our hearts and blesses them. Let's check out what the Lord told Samuel about our hearts more than one thousand years before Jesus taught us about these blessings.



**FIND IT FIRST** > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: 1 Samuel 16:7. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read 1 Samuel 16:7.

These blessings are important to remember because they may describe a blessing in your life now or in your future. Let's play a matching game to remember the kingdom blessings.

## MATCH-UP MOUNTAIN

**Purpose:** This matching game helps children learn and understand the Beatitudes.

**Supplies:** Class set of Blessing Cards, floor tape, rope or chalk

**Prepare:** A class set of Blessing Cards may be prepared before class or the children may help prepare them in THE WELCOME. Use floor tape, rope or chalk to make a mountain shape on the floor. Shuffle the Blessings Cards and arrange them in random order, face-down on the ground next to the mountain.

### Directions:

1. Choose a child to turn over two cards.
  - If the symbols and number on the two cards match, the child may read both cards and place them together in the mountain.
  - If the symbols and number on the card do not match, the child turns them back over (leaving them in their original place) and their turn is over.
2. Encourage the children to help each other match the cards.
3. Children take turns until all the cards are matched and placed face up on the mountain.

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## GOLDEN BOWL

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.**

**Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_. Read names in Golden Bowl.**

**Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## FINAL FIVE MINUTES

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is a Beatitudes bookmark. Share this with your family and discuss the nine blessings for people in the kingdom of God.

**DAILY WAY CHALLENGE:** Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time?

Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 7 Daily Way 5-day Bible study.

**Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

**Teacher Tip:** Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Jesus teaching the crowd on the hillside. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SNACK: MOUNTAIN OF PUDDING**

**Purpose:** Connect with your students while enjoying a snack to help them think about ways God has blessed them.

**Snack Suggestion:** Pudding and wafer cookies (or another snack that can be used to make a pile)

**Jesus taught from the side of the mountain. He taught the blessings He gives to the humble. Let's see who can make the best mountain from the pudding and cookies. You can pile up the pudding and crumble the wafers over the pudding mountain to make rocks.**

**Directions:**

1. Give each child a snack and drink.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. As you create mountains and eat them, ask the children to answer Snack Discussion Question:  
"Which of the Beatitudes is the most meaningful to you?"

### **GAME: BLESSING BUDDY CHARADES**

**Purpose:** This version of charades helps children learn and understand the Beatitudes.

**Supplies:** Class set of Blessing Cards, bag or hat

**Let's play a charades game to remember all of the kingdom blessings (Beatitudes).**

**Directions:**

1. Place the "Letter A" Blessing Cards into a bag or hat.
2. The teacher holds all of the "Letter B" Blessing Cards.
3. Divide children into buddy pairs of two.
4. Have one child from each buddy pair draw a Blessing Card from the bag or hat.
5. Give the corresponding number card from the "Letter B" group to the other child in each buddy pair.
6. One at a time, the buddy pairs are to silently act out the blessing on their cards. You may need to help younger children with their acting.
7. The remaining children are to guess which blessing is being acted out.
8. Explain the meaning of the blessing.
9. Repeat steps 6-8 until all buddy pairs have had a turn acting out their blessing.



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: TAKE HOME BLESSING CARDS**

**Purpose:** Children create their own set of Blessing Cards to play Match Up Mountain at home.

**Supplies:** A set of Blessing Cards pages for each child, scissors, markers and crayons, optional: stickers or magazine pictures, rubber bands or envelopes

**Prepare:** Print a set of Blessing Cards pages (18 cards in each child's set) for each child. The Blessing Cards template is at the end of this lesson.

**Today, we learned about the nine blessings called the Beatitudes that Jesus taught the crowd on the mountainside. Let's create our own sets of Blessing Cards so we can play Match Up Mountain at home.**

### **Directions:**

1. Distribute Blessing Cards page(s) so each child has a set of 18 cards to cut out and decorate.
2. Read the blessings together.
3. For each pair of Blessing Cards, draw and color the suggested symbol in the symbol box.  
Optional: Attach magazine pictures or stickers of each symbol in each symbol box.
4. Cut out the 18 Blessing Cards. Contain the set for safekeeping by wrapping it with a rubber band or placing it in an envelope.

**Teacher Tip:** If time allows, children may play individual or partner versions of Match-Up Mountain. Directions are located in THE WAY.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

"Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 16:24; 4:19

### **GAME: COME, FOLLOW ME**

**Purpose:** Children step on footprints to learn the words and meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Sturdy paper, a marker, Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster

**Prepare:** Cut 31 footprint shapes from sturdy paper. Write one word of the Bible Memory Verse on each footprint. Display the poster where the children can see it.

Shuffle the footprints as you ask the following questions:

**Who should we follow?** (Jesus.) **Jesus says we must do some things to follow Him. What does He want us to do?** (Deny yourself and take up your cross.) **This means following Jesus is not easy. Denying ourselves means not being selfish. Taking up our cross means following Jesus even when it's hard or we don't want to. When might serving Jesus be hard?** (When others make fun of us, when it's more fun to make fun of someone instead of help them, when we should stand up for what is right when everyone else likes the wrong way.)

**What does Jesus say He will do for us?** (Make us fishers of men.) **What is a "fisher of men?"** (Someone who helps others learn about and follow Jesus.) **If we follow Jesus with all of our hearts by obeying and serving Him no matter what, He will lead us to help others follow Him, too.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Say the Bible Memory Verse together.
2. Distribute the footprints as evenly as possible among the children.
3. On your signal, children race to place the footprints on the floor in the correct order.

**Teacher Tip:** For a more competitive version of this game, divide the children into two teams. Time the first team as they place the 31 footprints in order. Then have the second team race to see which team is the fastest at placing the footprints in the correct order.

### **GAME: THE WAVE**

**Purpose:** Children memorize the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse: Matthew 16:24; 4:19.

**Supplies:** Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

#### **Directions:**

1. Assign one phrase from Matthew 16:24; 4:19 to each child or group.
2. Direct each child or group to quickly stand, say the assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky and then down to the thighs and then sit down.
3. Repeat three times, faster each time.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part One studies the life of Jesus (Circa 0-33 A.D.) beginning with the only story of His childhood and then focusing on His relationships, His ministry, His teachings, and the events surrounding His death, resurrection, and ascension. It concludes with a study of His kingdom parables. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

**Jesus Clears the Temple (Circa 30 A.D.)** How did Jesus stop the men from charging unfair prices for the dove offerings the people needed as they came to worship in God's house? (He turned over their sales tables and would not let them walk through the temple to sell doves or animals.) What did Jesus say His house would be called? (A house of prayer for the nations.)

**Jesus is Transfigured (Circa 30 A.D.)** How did Jesus' face and clothes change on the mountain? (His face shone; His clothes were bright white.) What two men suddenly appeared with Jesus? (Moses and Elijah). What did God's voice say? "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to Him." How does this story show you that Jesus was both God and man? (Children respond.)

**Jesus Teaches the Beatitudes (Circa 30 A.D.)** Jesus sat down on the mountainside and taught the crowd about the Beatitudes; nine blessings that come to the humble. These blessings are not earned by good deeds, but given freely to those who are fit to receive them. Which beatitude is most meaningful to you? (Children respond.)

How to create a Bible Timeline for the Life of Jesus:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.  
Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

**Life of Jesus:** Jesus and His Father's House > Jesus Is Baptized > Jesus Is Tempted > Jesus Calls His Disciples > Jesus Clears the Temple > Jesus Is Transfigured > Jesus Teaches the Beatitudes > Jesus and Nicodemus > Jesus and the Woman at the Well > Jesus with Mary and Martha > Jesus and Zacchaeus > Jesus Is Anointed > The Triumphal Entry > Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet > Jesus and the Last Supper > Jesus in the Garden > Jesus and the Cross > Jesus Is Risen > The Road to Emmaus > Jesus Talks with Peter > The Great Commission > The King Ascends

**Kingdom Parables:** The Lost Sheep > The Sower > The Vine and the Branches > The Workers in the Vineyard > The Great Banquet > The Rich Fool > The Talents > Lazarus and the Rich Man > The Lost Son > The Good Samaritan

# **BLESSING CARD TEMPLATE**

Copy and cut out the 18 cards below. Draw a picture or use a sticker to fill in the symbol box.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Blessed are<br/>the poor in spirit,</b></p> <p>(Happy are those who<br/>depend on God for<br/>everything,)</p>   | <p><b>for theirs is<br/>the kingdom of<br/>heaven.</b></p> <p>(for their riches are from<br/>God and greater than<br/>anything on earth.)</p> |
| <p><b>Blessed are<br/>those who<br/>mourn,</b></p> <p>(Happy are those<br/>who are sad,)</p>   | <p><b>for they will<br/>be comforted.</b></p> <p>(for God will come<br/>close and make them<br/>feel better.)</p>                             |
| <p><b>Blessed are<br/>the meek,</b></p> <p>(Happy are those who<br/>are gentle and slow to<br/>anger,)</p>   | <p><b>for they<br/>will inherit the<br/>earth.</b></p> <p>(for they will one day<br/>rule the earth.)</p>                                     |
| <p><b>Blessed are those<br/>who hunger<br/>and thirst for<br/>righteousness,</b></p> <p>(Happy are those who want<br/>to do what the Bible says is<br/>right in God's eyes,)</p> | <p><b>for they<br/>will be filled.</b></p> <p>(for they will come closer<br/>to God and He will help<br/>them do right.)</p>                  |

|   |                              |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <p><b>Blessed are the merciful,</b></p> <p>(Happy are those who are forgiving and kind,)</p>  | <p>5A</p> <p>Heart</p>       | <p><b>for they will be shown mercy.</b></p> <p>(for God will forgive and be kind to them.)</p>  | <p>5B</p> <p>Heart</p>       |
| <p><b>Blessed are the pure in heart,</b></p> <p>(Happy are those who only want the things that please God,)</p>   | <p>6A</p> <p>Eye</p>         | <p><b>for they will see God.</b></p> <p>(for they will see and understand more about God.)</p>  | <p>6B</p> <p>Eye</p>         |
| <p><b>Blessed are the peacemakers,</b></p> <p>(Happy are those who help people love each other,)</p>  | <p>7A</p> <p>Handshake</p>   | <p><b>for they will be called children of God.</b></p> <p>(for others will know they belong to God.)</p>  | <p>7B</p> <p>Handshake</p>   |
| <p><b>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,</b></p> <p>(Happy are those treated unfairly for doing what is right in God's eyes,)</p>   | <p>8A</p> <p>Prison Bars</p> | <p><b>for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</b></p> <p>(for their riches are from God and greater than anything on earth.)</p>   | <p>8B</p> <p>Prison Bars</p> |
| <p><b>Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.</b></p> <p>(Happy are you when others say mean things and treat you unfairly for doing what is right in God's eyes.)</p> | <p>9A</p> <p>Trophy</p>      | <p><b>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.</b></p> <p>(Celebrate and be glad because God will give you a great reward in heaven, for you are now being mistreated like the Bible prophets.)</p> | <p>9B</p> <p>Trophy</p>      |