

Bible in 52 Weeks-Week 26

The Beatitudes



If you could change one thing in the world, what would it be? Why would you change it? Share your highs/lows and God moments too!



Read Matthew 5: 1-12 or pages 264-267 in the Spark Storybook Bible.

Conversation Starters:

For Children:

- Have you ever been sad? What made you feel better?
- How have you made a friend feel better?
- How does God make us feel better?
- What does it mean to be happy?
- What makes you happy?
- Who reminds you that God takes care of you?

For Youth/Adults:

- “Blessed” is not about material or physical happiness but about joy that comes from God. When have you experienced that joy?
- Have you had a time in your life when someone was unkind or mean to you because of your faith? How did you handle that?
- With whom do you think we should share God’s blessings?
- What are some concrete ways that you can share God’s blessings?
- Jesus is declaring what reality is in God’s Kingdom. Those on the bottom rung of society will be “blessed” or lifted up. What would these beatitudes look like today? Who is on the “bottom rung” of our society?
- What does mercy look like to you? How does mercy get expressed in our culture?

Activities for all:

- Write your own Beatitudes based on who you think God would lift up today. Refugees? Homeless? Depressed?
- Cut out a big heart out of red paper or color the heart. Write the prayers of your heart to God on the heart this week.
- Journal (or draw a picture for younger children) about a day when you felt God's presence. What was going on? How did you feel God's presence? Why does this day matter to you in your faith journey?
- Jesus reminds us to "rejoice and be glad" (vs.12), in our rejoicing, we should share this good news with others. It's all about community! Give of yourself and your time this week. Volunteer to do work for a neighbor in need, at church, at your neighborhood school or assisted living center (sometimes with a simple background check you can read to children or sit with older people and play games!). Who do you think is more "blessed" by this experience?
- Pay attention in the news this week to those whom the media might describe as "poor in spirit," or "reviled," or "meek." How do you think they would describe themselves?



Write prayers on your "heart" and read them aloud each day. Pray through verses 3-11 (perhaps one or two a day) and consider who those people are in our society today. Name them by name if you can.



+Rejoice and be glad for God is with you!+