

MATTHEW 5

BEATITUDES



Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Presents wrapped loosely, white paper, white crayons
Age: Elementary

Explain:

Ask the kids what they remember about last week's lesson. Explain that today, we are going to begin the longest recorded teaching of Jesus, and that we'll be learning about it for a while. Does anyone know what the sermon is called? (The Sermon on the Mount). Have the kids grab their Bibles and turn to Matthew chapter 5. Ask if anyone knows what a beatitude is (allow for answers). Tell the kids to listen for a word that is repeated several times from our Scripture and see if they can figure it out when you read.

Read:

Read Matthew 5:1-12

Did anyone notice a word that kept repeating? (Blessing). Yes, beatitude is a fancy old way of saying blessing.

Activity

Have the kids draw a picture with white crayons on white paper. Ask them to draw a scene or their favorite animals.

While they are doing this, **ask:**

What is a blessing to you? (allow for answers, children will likely speak of their pets and family and home and friends).

Those are all great blessings in our lives, and God is the giver of all blessings. But did you know that there are some blessings that we can't always see? Think of these pictures. You know you drew something, but it's hard to see. Some of these blessings from God that were in our Bible passage aren't always easy to see. Let's look at each of these more to understand them.

Read and Explain

Look over the beatitudes one at a time and ask if kids know what each means and can give an example. If they don't have an answer or don't know, help them. Also, help them to see that these are ways Jesus wants us to live.

Game

Wrap presents in two different colored papers and place in two groups. On or in the box inside each present write half of a beatitude (i.e. one box will say "Blessed are the poor in spirit" and a box in the other group will say "for theirs is the kingdom of God"). Divide the kids in two teams. Have them race across the room and open a present. The catch is that they can't use their hands. Once all of the presents are open, match the blessings with the result.

Apply

Ask the kids to count their blessings and be mindful of all God does for them. Also ask them to pick out one to think on this week. Can they try to be meek? Or a peacemaker? Or hunger and thirst for righteousness?

Memorize: Matthew 5:8