

# Beatitudes

## Lesson Objectives

- The students will identify one beatitude from Jesus' sermon on the mountainside.
- The students will state that God cares about their attitudes toward sin.
- The students will describe one blessing that comes from obeying God.

## Lesson Text

Matthew 5:1-12

## Scripture Memory Verse

"Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God."  
Matthew 5:8

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Word for Word

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Blessed Is Best

Craft: One Day at a Time

Scripture Memory: Do You See  
What I See?

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



**3rd and 4th Grades**

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# Beatitudes

## Word for Word

The students will preview today's lesson as they complete this activity.

### Materials

For each student:

- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

### Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page A.

### Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Tell them that today's lesson begins a new unit about Jesus' sermon on the mountainside from Matthew chapters 5-7. Explain that in this activity, they will fill in the missing words from verses in the Bible called the Beatitudes. Show the students your copy of Reproducible Page A.
2. Help the students to find a partner or small group to work with. Tell them that they will need their Bibles to complete this activity.

3. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A and pencils. Encourage the students to help each other find the verses in the Bible.
4. Circulate among the students to offer help and encouragement. Ask the students what they think these verses mean and tell them that they will learn about them in their Bible Story.
5. For students who finish early, have them turn their pages over and draw how they picture Jesus giving this talk on the mountainside.

### Teacher Tips

- Decorate the Preclass area with pictures (or posters) of mountains or people on a mountainside to help set the atmosphere for this lesson.

**Word for Word**  
Directions: Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom of the page. Use your Bible to help you.

Now when [Jesus] saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying:

☺ Blessed are the poor, in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

☺ Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

☺ Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

☺ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

☺ Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

☺ Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

☺ Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called sons of God.

☺ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:1-10

comforted	earth	heaven	hunger	kingdom	meek	merciful
mercy	mourn	peacemakers	persecuted	poor	pure	see
poor	think	filled				

# Beatitudes

## Blessed Is Best

The students will participate in a Bible Story about Jesus' sermon on the mountainside as they consider what it means to be blessed.

### Materials

For the teacher:

- 14 index cards, 5" x 8"
- blue marker
- red marker
- pictures of people: sad, happy, talking, praying, hungry, showing mercy, etc.

### Preparation

1. On seven index cards, neatly print with the blue marker: poor in spirit; mourn; meek; hunger and thirst for righteousness; merciful; pure in heart; peacemakers.
2. On the other seven index cards, neatly print with the red marker: kingdom of heaven; comforted; inherit the earth; be filled; shown mercy; see God; be called sons of God.

### Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 5:1-12 along with the students. Read it aloud as they follow along. Ask the students what word is repeated nine times in this passage? (blessed) Ask the students if they know what "blessed" means. (Take responses.)

Ask the students if they can recall the happiest moment in their lives and share it with the group. Tell the students that blessed means extremely happy—like the happiest moment in their lives. Ask the students how it feels to be extremely happy. Is it a good feeling?

Tell the students that God created us to be happy and he even tells us what to do so that we can be extremely happy. Ask the students if they would like to learn how Jesus said we could be happy.

### Presenting the Bible Story

Show the students the index cards that you prepared. Explain that on seven cards there are seven situations that Jesus talked about in his sermon on the mountainside. On the other seven cards, there are the ways that God will bless the people in those situations. These blessings are called "beatitudes." Have the students say the word "beatitude." Ask them what word it sounds like. (Attitude) Explain

that God cares about our attitudes as much as he cares about what we say and do.

Divide the students into two groups and shuffle both sets of cards separately. Distribute the blue cards to the students in one group and the red cards to the others. Read from Matthew 5:1-9 slowly and have the students match up the cards as you read the words on them. After they are all matched, have the students sit in a circle.

### What's It All About?

Bring out the pictures of different people and use them to help illustrate the beatitudes with the questions that follow. For each one, have the students act out a face or gesture that depicts the "key" word(s) in the verse. Be prepared to share a few examples from your own life (or someone you know) that illustrate these different ideas. NOTE: Always ask permission before sharing about another person's personal or spiritual experience.

- Ask the students what they think "poor in spirit" means. (spiritually needy) God says these people who don't know God can become extremely happy! Do you know anyone who is poor in spirit?
- Ask the students what they think "mourn" means. (sad) God says the people who are very sad can become extremely happy! Do you know anyone who is sad?
- Ask the students what they think "meek" means. (free of pride) God says these people can become extremely happy! Do you know someone who cares more about others than about themselves?
- Ask the students what they think "hunger and thirst for righteousness" means. (hungry and thirsty for what is right) God says these people can become extremely happy! Do you know someone who is totally focused on loving and obeying God?
- Ask the students what they think "merciful" means. (forgiving) God says these people can become extremely happy! Do you know someone who is very forgiving?
- Ask the students what they think "pure in heart" means. (wanting what is right and good) God says these people can become extremely happy!
- Ask the students what they think "peacemaker" means. (to make peace or help people solve their problems) God says these people can become extremely



**3rd and 4th Grades**

# Beatitudes

happy! Do you know someone who is good at helping people solve problems?

## Sharing with Others

Ask the students how it makes them feel to know that God wants to bless them—or make them extremely happy. Ask them if they can think of someone who is not happy. Encourage them to share what they have learned from Jesus with that person this week. Close with a prayer thanking God for all the ways that he makes us happy.

## Teacher Tips

- Pictures for this activity can be found in magazines, calendars, newspapers, or books.
- If you use magazine pictures, mount and/or laminate them for a more durable material.



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# Beatitudes

## One Day at a Time

The students will create weekly calendars to remind them of a different beatitude for each day of the week.

### Materials

For each student:

- scissors
- markers
- glue stick
- 1 sheet of colored construction paper, 9" x 12"
- Bible
- decorative items: sequins, stickers, construction paper strips, etc.

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

### Preparation

1. Cut out the calendars from the copies of Reproducible Page B.
2. Make a sample of the completed calendar to show the students.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: In today's Bible Story, you are learning about a famous sermon Jesus gave on a mountainside in front of a large crowd of people. Jesus spoke to the people about having the right attitudes and about God's blessings for those who are seeking God and trying to do what is right. Today we are going to make calendars to remind us of the Beatitudes all week long!
2. Show the students your calendar. Explain that for each day of the week there is a different beatitude listed. Underneath each day there is special picture that gives them clues about the meaning of the beatitude. Read the scripture to them, and then fill in the missing words using the picture as an aid.
3. Have the students prepare the calendars as follows:
  - A. Distribute the calendars and scissors to the students. Have the students fold the top of the calendar on the dashed line. This should completely cover the pictures.

- B. Have the students unfold the calendar, and then make the six vertical cuts, as shown in Figure A. Make sure they do not cut past the fold.
- C. Have the students refold the calendar. Have them write out the days of the week, starting with "Sunday," on each of the seven folded squares. See Figure B.

NOTE: Explain to them that they can also use the abbreviation that corresponds with the day instead of spelling out the whole word.

4. Give the students their sheets of construction paper and glue sticks. Have them glue the calendars to the center of their papers, except for the folded squares.
5. Let the students choose any of the decorative items they wish. Have them glue these items onto the borders of their calendars, as shown in Figure C.
6. Make sure the students write their names on their calendars.

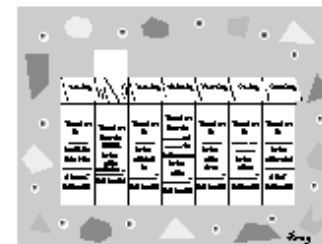
### Conclusion

Review how the calendar works with the students. Use today's day of the week as an example. Explain the association between the picture and the text. Show them that the Bible reference is available if they want to look up the scriptures instead of guessing the answers from the pictures. Encourage the students to complete the calendars at home discovering a new beatitude each day of the week!

Close with a prayer for the students to be excited about learning about a new beatitude each day in the coming week.

### Teacher Tips

- Encourage the students to share a beatitude each day with a family member.



3rd and 4th Grades

# Beatitudes

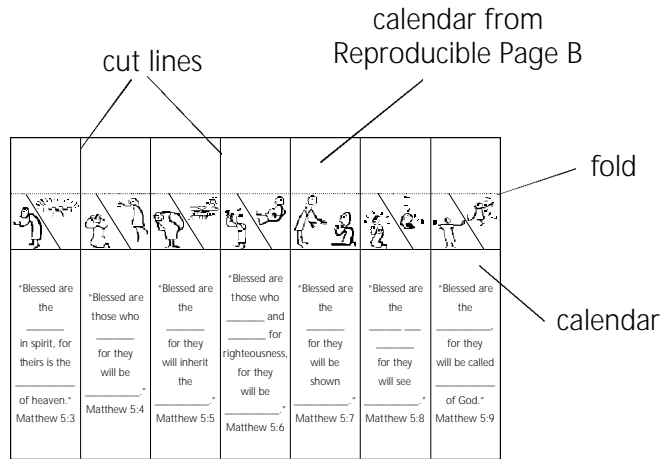


Figure A

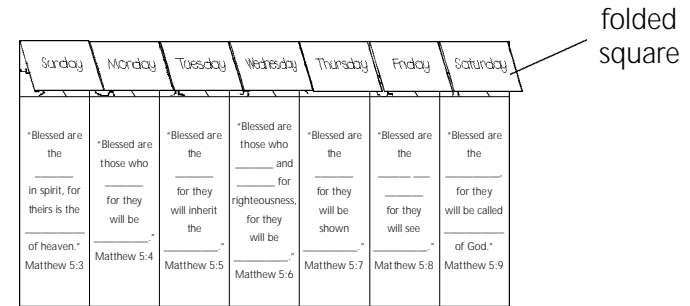


Figure B

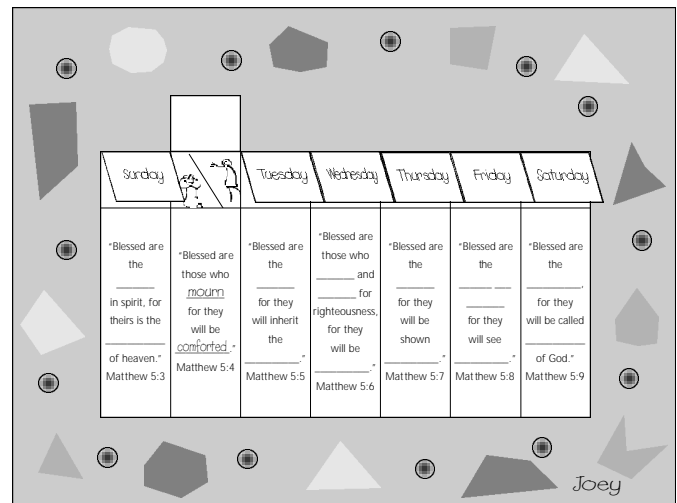


Figure C

SCRIPTURE  
MEMORY

# Beatitudes

## Do You See What I See?

The students will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse through this activity.

### Scripture Memory Verse

"Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God."

Matthew 5:8

### Materials

For each student:

- 1 piece of construction paper, 9" x 12"
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each student

### Preparation

1. Cut out the pictures from the copies of Reproducible Page C for the students.
2. Complete this activity to show the students.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: This week, you are learning about a very special message that Jesus spoke to the people on a mountainside. Jesus told the people that they were blessed—or very happy—even if their lives did not seem that way. Jesus had a way of helping people to see things from a different point of view. Jesus wanted the people to see that God was going to make them happy even if their situations were not happy. Jesus wanted people to see God! In your Scripture Memory Verse, you are going to learn one of the things that Jesus told the people about being happy.
2. Show the students the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say it to the students three times as they follow along. Ask them to say it with you three more times. Ask each student to say the verse together with you to the rest of the group. Ask for volunteers to say the verse from memory.

3. Review the Scripture Memory Verse by having the students fill in the following blanks:
  - Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see \_\_\_\_\_. (God)
  - Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for \_\_\_\_\_. (they will see God)
  - Blessed are the pure in \_\_\_\_\_, (heart)  
for they will see God.
  - Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, (pure in heart)  
for they will see God.
4. Show the students the sample activity you made and say the verse to them using the pictures. Distribute the pictures you prepared, the construction paper and glue sticks. Tell the students to place the pictures in the order that they belong in the verse. Circulate among them to help. When they have placed the pictures correctly, have them glue them on their construction paper. Make sure they write their names on their pages.

### Conclusion

Ask the students what they think it would be like to see God. Encourage them that sometimes we can see God in ways we don't even realize if we have pure hearts. Close with a prayer for the students to have pure hearts so that they can see God.

### Teacher Tips

- If time does not permit them to finish the picture, have them take it home to finish.



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# Beatitudes

“Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.”

Matthew 5:8



## Lesson Objectives

- The students will identify one beatitude from Jesus' sermon on the mountainside.
- The students will state that God cares about their attitudes toward sin.
- The students will describe one blessing that comes from obeying God.

## Lesson Text

Matthew 5:1-12

## Scripture Memory Verse

"Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God."

Matthew 5:8

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Mountainside Memories

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: To Be or Not to Be?

Game: Tic-Tac-Toe: What Do You Know?

Bible Skills: The Matthew Report

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

## Mountainside Memories

The students review this week's lesson through this worksheet activity.

### Materials

For each student:

- pencil
- Reproducible Pages:
- Page D, 1 copy for each student

### Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page D.

### Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Remind them that this week's lesson is about Jesus' sermon on the mountainside.

2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page D and the pencils. Have the students work with a partner or in a small group of three. Tell them to use their Bibles and help them turn to Matthew 5:3-10.
3. Tell the students to draw a line from the beginning of each beatitude in the column on the left to the correct ending in the column on the right.
4. Circulate among the students to offer help and encouragement. Remind them to put their names on their pages.
5. For the students who finish early, have them write a story or draw a picture of Jesus on the mountainside telling this message to the people.

### Teacher Tips

- Be prepared to share from your own life about ways that you have experienced the blessings described in Matthew 5:1-12.

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3rd and 4th Grades

## To Be or Not to Be?

The students will review this week's Bible Story as they think of ways that they have been blessed for obeying God.

### Materials

For the teacher:

- 4 small pieces of paper
- marker
- small container
- large writing surface

### Preparation

1. Neatly print on the pieces of paper the words: humble; forgiving; pure in heart; a peacemaker. Fold each one and place them in the small container.
2. On the large writing surface, write the word, "Attitude" with a circle around it. Write, scattering around it the words: Who; What; Where; How; Why.

### Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 5:1-10. In your Bible Story this week, you learned that Jesus gave a famous sermon on a mountainside in front of a large crowd of people. This week, you heard the first part of that sermon called the Beatitudes, where Jesus spoke to the people and told them about God's blessings for people who are seeking God and trying to do what is right. Jesus wanted the people to know that God cares about their attitudes as well as their actions. Jesus wanted the people to see that they can be blessed—extremely happy—if they would love and obey God.

Read Matthew 5:1-10 to the students.

### Life Application: Anatomy of an Attitude

Pointing to the words on the large writing surface, ask the following questions: (Write their answers)

1. WHO has attitudes? (everyone)
2. WHAT is an attitude? (feeling; perspective) Give an example of a good attitude and a bad attitude. (happy; unselfish; angry; selfish)
3. WHERE do attitudes come from? (heart; mind, other people)
4. HOW do we get attitudes? (from what we think and feel; other people)
5. WHY are our attitudes important? (They tell us if our thoughts and feelings please God.)

Show the students the small container and tell them that there are four attitudes in it. Ask a student to take out one piece of paper and read it to the group. Then lead the group in saying together: "To be \_\_\_\_\_ or not to be \_\_\_\_\_? That is the question and here is my answer: \_\_\_\_\_" Have each student go around and tell whether they want to be the way that is described and why. Do the first one for them. For example: To be forgiving or not to be forgiving? That is the question and here is my answer: Yes. I want to be for giving with \_\_\_\_\_ because Jesus was for giving with me. Do this for each as time permits.

### Conclusion

Ask the students to each think of one way that being humble, forgiving, pure in heart or a peacemaker can make them happy—or be a blessing. Share specific examples from your own experience. Close with a prayer for the students to see how happy they can be from obeying God.

### Teacher Tips

- Get advice about how to share specifically from your life with students this age.



3rd and 4th Grades



## Tic-Tac-Toe: What Do You Know?

The students will review important ideas from this week's Bible Story as they play this version of Tic-Tac-Toe.

### Materials

For the teacher:

- large writing surface
- scissors
- basket
- watch or timer with second hand

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 2 copies for the teacher

### Preparation

1. Cut out each of the Beatitudes from both your copies of Reproducible Page E.
2. Fold them into quarters and place them in the basket or hat.
3. Make a Tic-Tac-Toe board on the large writing surface.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: In your lesson this week, you are learning about Jesus' sermon on the mountainside, where Jesus taught his disciples. In his sermon, Jesus wanted the people to learn that God wants people to be blessed—or extremely happy! He wanted them to know that God cares about their attitudes as well as what they do. In our game today, you will review some of the Beatitudes in a variation of Tic-Tac-Toe.
2. Divide the students into two teams and assign one team to be the "X"s and the other "O"s. Tell them that they will take turns trying to answer questions about the Beatitudes in order to place their "X" or "O" on the space. Have both teams open their Bibles to Matthew 5:3-10.
3. Show the students the basket of papers. Explain that on each one is a beatitude that is missing words. They will have sixty seconds to come up with the answer. If they are correct, they may place an "X" or "O" on a space. If they are not, it is the next team's turn to go. Collect the papers and set them aside.  
NOTE: There are two sets of beatitudes in the basket, so each question will appear two times.

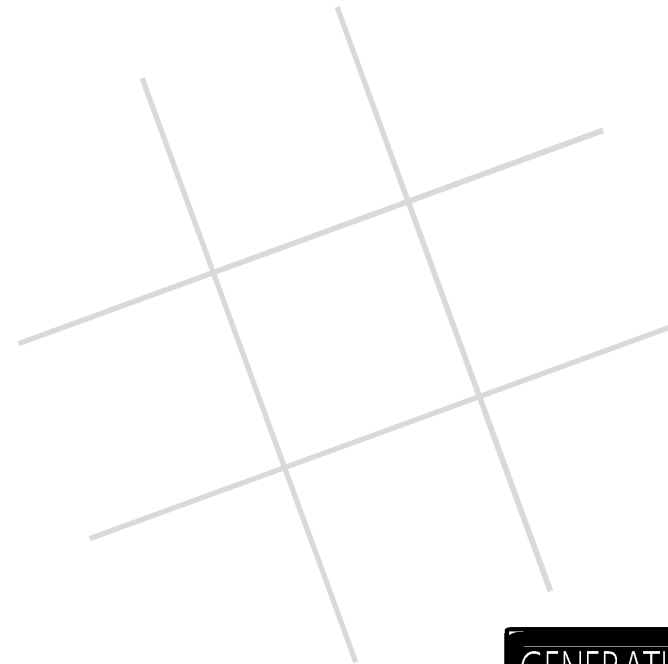
4. The first team to get three in a row wins the first round. Continue playing for as long as time permits. Encourage the students for their participation.

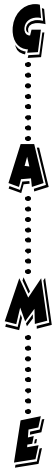
### Conclusion

Ask the students which beatitude best describes them and why. Close with a prayer for the students to see how important the thoughts and attitudes of their hearts are to God.

### Teacher Tips

- Recognize students who are examples of humility, forgiveness and peacemaking during this game.





<p>"Blessed are the <u>poor</u> in spirit, for theirs is the <u>kingdom</u> of heaven."</p>
<p>"Blessed are those who <u>mourn</u>, for they will be <u>comforted</u>."</p>
<p>"Blessed are the <u>meek</u>, for they will inherit the <u>earth</u>."</p>
<p>"Blessed are those who <u>hunger</u> and <u>thirst</u> for righteousness, for they will be <u>filled</u>."</p>
<p>"Blessed are the <u>merciful</u>, for they will be shown <u>mercy</u>."</p>
<p>"Blessed are the <u>pure</u> in heart, for they will <u>see</u> God."</p>
<p>"Blessed are the <u>peacemakers</u>, for they will be called <u>sons</u> of God."</p>
<p>"Blessed are those who are <u>persecuted</u> because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of <u>heaven</u>."</p>



3rd and 4th Grades

## The Matthew Report

The students will become familiar with the book of Matthew as they complete this activity.

### Materials

For the teacher:

- 2 pencils
- Reproducible Pages:
- Page F, 2 copies for the teacher

### Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page F.

### Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: In your Bible Story this week, you learned about Jesus' sermon on the mountainside. Jesus spoke to the disciples in front of a great crowd. He taught them about God's love and his blessings. Jesus wanted the people to understand how happy they could be if they would obey God's words. This Bible Story comes from the New Testament book called Matthew. In today's activity, you are going to learn some important information about Matthew's gospel.
2. Divide the students into two groups. Make sure every student has a Bible. Give both groups a copy of Reproducible Page F and a pencil. Tell the students that they will try to be the first to find the information you request and write it down in the correct space. The first group to find it should indicate this by raising their hands.

3. Use the questions on the back of this Lesson Card. Read one question at a time and wait until both groups have an answer before going to the next question. Encourage all the students to use their Bibles to help their group be the first to find the answer.
4. When both groups are finished, ask each one to present their answers to each other.

### Conclusion

Ask the students why they think it was important for Matthew to write a book about Jesus. Close with a prayer thanking God for the book of Matthew.

### Teacher Tips

- Try to have extra New International Version Bibles available for students who don't have a Bible or forgot to bring one.



**The Matthew Report**

Questions and Answers

- #1: How many chapters are in the book of Matthew? (28)
- #2: How many verses are in chapter 1? (25)
- #3: How many verses are in chapter 25? (46)
- #4: What are the first two words in chapter 6? (Be careful)
- #5: Where was Jesus eating dinner in chapter 9 verse 10?  
(Matthew's house)
- #6: What book comes after Matthew in the New Testament? (Mark)
- #7: What book comes before Matthew? Hint: it's in the Old Testament. (Malachi)
- #8: In what chapter do you find the genealogy (or family tree) of Jesus? Hint: it's in the beginning. (1)
- #9: In what chapter do you find the beginning Jesus' sermon on the mountainside? (5)
- #10: In what chapter do you read about Jesus' resurrection from the dead? Hint: it's at the end. (28)

**3rd and 4th Grades**

Word for Word

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom of the page. Use your Bible to help you.

Now when [Jesus] saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying:

- ☺ "Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_ in spirit,  
for theirs is the \_\_\_\_\_ of heaven.
- ☺ Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_,  
for they will be \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☺ Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_,  
for they will inherit the \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☺ Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness,  
for they will be \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☺ Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_,  
for they will be shown \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☺ Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_ in heart,  
for they will \_\_\_\_\_ God.
- ☺ Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_,  
for they will be called \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- ☺ Blessed are those who are \_\_\_\_\_ because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_."

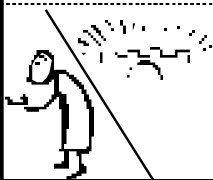
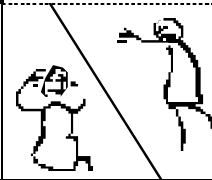
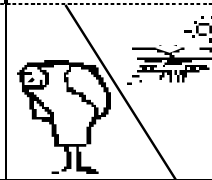
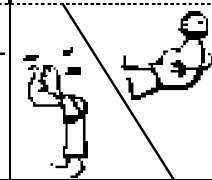
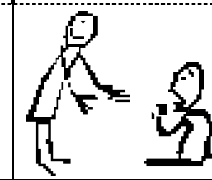
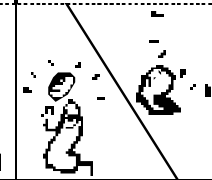
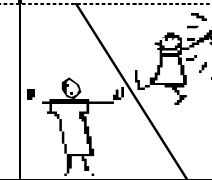


Matthew 5:1-10

comforted	earth	heaven	hunger	kingdom	meek	merciful
mercy	mourn	peacemakers	persecuted	poor	pure	see
sons	thirst	filled				



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<p>"Blessed are the _____ in spirit, for theirs is the _____ of heaven." Matthew 5:3</p>	<p>"Blessed are those who _____ for they will be _____." Matthew 5:4</p>	<p>"Blessed are the _____ for they will inherit the _____." Matthew 5:5</p>	<p>"Blessed are those who _____ and _____ for righteousness, for they will be _____." Matthew 5:6</p>	<p>"Blessed are the _____ for they will be shown _____." Matthew 5:7</p>	<p>"Blessed are the _____ for they will see _____." Matthew 5:8</p>	<p>"Blessed are the _____ for they will be called _____ of God." Matthew 5:9</p>


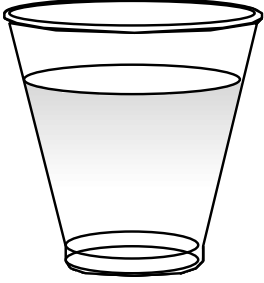



calendar



**3rd and 4th Grades**



Core/Scripture Memory  
1 copy for each student

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	<b>4</b>	they will	
	Matthew 5:8		



3rd and 4th Grades

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**3rd and 4th Grades**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Mountainside Memories

Instructions: Open your Bible to Matthew 5:3-10.

Draw a line matching the words in the column on the left to the correct words in the column on the right.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,	for they will inherit the earth."
"Blessed are those who mourn,	for they will see God."
"Blessed are the meek,	for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,	for they will be called sons of God."
"Blessed are the merciful,	for they will be filled."
"Blessed are the pure in heart,	for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
"Blessed are the peacemakers,	for they will be shown mercy."
"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,	for they will be comforted."

Using the beatitudes above, fill in the blanks below:

- Which 5-letter word means "sad"? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which 8-letter word means "forgiving"? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which 4-letter word means "humble or without pride"? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which 11-letter word means "problem solvers"? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which 7-letter word means "extremely happy"? \_\_\_\_\_

Write out this week's Scripture Memory Verse:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Supplement/Game**

2 copies for the teacher

"Blessed are the _____ in spirit, for theirs is the _____ of heaven."
"Blessed are those who _____, for they will be _____."
"Blessed are the _____, for they will inherit the _____."
"Blessed are those who _____ and _____ for righteousness, for they will be _____."
"Blessed are the _____, for they will be shown _____."
"Blessed are the _____ in heart, for they will _____ God."
"Blessed are the _____, for they will be called _____ of God."
"Blessed are those who are _____ because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of _____."



**3rd and 4th Grades**

**The Matthew Report**

#1: \_\_\_\_\_

#6: \_\_\_\_\_

#2: \_\_\_\_\_

#7: \_\_\_\_\_

#3: \_\_\_\_\_

#8: \_\_\_\_\_

#4: \_\_\_\_\_

#9: \_\_\_\_\_

#5: \_\_\_\_\_

#10: \_\_\_\_\_

