

The Beatitudes

Huddle 2 – *God Blesses the Poor*



SETTING THE ATMOSPHERE

As children arrive, collect the “In” slips and see which grade they are in for their huddle teams. Remember to check all slips to make sure children are to be in Up & Out this hour.

Team Time

Each team leader (student leader) should spend time getting a conversation started within the team to find out more about each child. Spend time today discussing the following questions up front...

- What did you guys do this week?
- Is there anything happening in your life?
- Can you think of anything that makes you feel that you are blessed?
- Can you name something this week that you are thankful for?
- Is there anything that you are struggling with that we can pray for?

Huddle Teams

- 1st & 2nd grade girls
- 1st & 2nd grade boys
- 3rd & 4th grade girls
- 3rd & 4th grade boys

Opening Prayer

Leader prays for the group.

LESSON HUDDLE

Let's all come over together and get started this morning. Good morning, Up & Out! Where we look up (pause for the group to respond) **TO GOD** and look out (Pause) **TO OTHERS**.

Last week we started a new series about The Beatitudes. Let's do a quick review.

What does Beatitude mean? (*Allow children to answer. Write the correct answer on the dry erase board.*) Beatitude means blessing. What does blessing mean? (*Allow children to answer then write “gifts/happiness/favor from God” on the dry erase board.*) A blessing is a gift or favor from God that is given even though we don't deserve it. We are going to be learning about the ways God blesses those who follow Him.

Who remembers in what book of the Bible The Beatitudes are found? (*Allow children to answer*) That's right! The Beatitudes are found in the book of Matthew. The Beatitudes teach us what kinds

of attitudes people who follow Jesus should have. Get it? The “be attitudes”. They remind us to have “be attitudes” instead of “me attitudes”. Not having a “me attitude” is one of the key points in today’s huddle. Let’s read Matthew 5:1-12 to remind us what The Beatitudes say. Open your Bibles and follow along as I read Matthew 5:1-12.

“One day as He saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around Him,² and he began to teach them.

He said:

³God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

⁴God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

⁶ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

⁷ God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

⁹ God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

¹⁰ God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

¹¹God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.

¹²Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.”

The first Beatitude, or blessing from God, is in verse 3. Who wants to reread it? (*Allow a child to read*)³God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.”

Let’s translate this Beatitude.

- Blessed means gifted with God’s favor. When we are blessed, it means we are getting a special gift from God that we don’t deserve.
- Who can tell me what it means to be poor? (*Allow children to answer*) To be poor means to not have enough or to be low quality. Someone can be poor and not have enough money or someone can do a poor job at cleaning their room.

We know we aren’t perfect. Jesus is the only person to have ever been perfect. Let’s read a couple of verses. I need two volunteers. (*Pick one child to look up and read Ecclesiastes 7:20. Pick a second child to look up and read Romans 3:23*)

- Ecclesiastes 7:20 “Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins.”
- Romans 3:23 “For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”

What do these verses have in common? (*Allow children to answer*) They tell us that we are all sinners. It is clear that we are not perfect like Jesus. Therefore, we are poor people no matter how much money or stuff we have and no matter how great we are at school, sports, dancing, or singing. But the Beatitude says, “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.” Does God bless all people who are poor? (*Allow children to answer*)

No, God does not bless everyone. Let me read the verse again. "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs." God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him. When we realize how poor we are and how much we need God, He blesses us. Did you read in the verse how God will bless us? (*Allow children to answer*) It says, "for the kingdom of heaven is theirs". This means God will come and live in our hearts and give us the whole kingdom of heaven. This means that we will get to spend eternity in heaven with Jesus. This is the best gift ever!

God loves us so much and desires to give us the kingdom of heaven. But, before He can do that we must realize that we are not good enough on our own. We need Him to make us clean and right with Him again. God created us in His image and He made us to be like Him, but we choose to sin instead of following Him. We need God to come and change our hearts. We must confess our need for Him and trust in His ability to right our wrongs. Only then will He bless us with the kingdom of heaven.

Being poor is the opposite of a "me attitude". It is definitely a "be attitude".

Let's pray and thank God for all of His blessings that He has given to us.

Huddle Up, Pray, & Break

ACTIVITY: Bee Toss

Materials:

- Tennis ball
- Yellow balloon filled with rice (about the size of a golf ball or tennis ball)

Instructions:

Line up children in two rows, shoulder to shoulder, facing each other (like you would for dodge ball). Have a space of three feet between the rows. Make sure every child knows who their partner is that is across from them. Give each child in one row a ball or balloon filled with rice. On your say, the children will toss the toy to their partner, then both rows will take one step back, and toss again. The goal is to see how far apart they can get and still catch the toy.

For variation, if they drop the toy they have to take a step closer and try again. You can also eliminate teams if they drop the toy until you have one team left. After playing the game, debrief by asking if it was easier or harder to catch when you were farther away from your partner. The further we get away from God, the harder it is to live the life He calls us to.

ACTIVITY: Perler Bead Cross

Materials:

- Yellow Perler beads

- Black Perler beads
- Dixie cups
- Perler bead boards
- Iron
- Fishing line
- Wax paper, parchment paper or ironing paper cut in 4" x 4" squares

Instructions:

Have children use a combination of black and yellow beads to put on the peg board in the shape of a cross. They can get creative with their design.

When they are finished, come to where they are with a hot iron. Put a wax paper square on top of the beads and iron the beads (medium setting, dry heat/no water, circular even motion). The beads will heat up and stick together. Let them cool slightly. Pull up on the wax paper to remove the beads. Use the fishing line for any children who want to hang their cross.



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