

The Beatitudes

Huddle 5 – *God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice*



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...

- Is there anything new 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?
- Were you really sad about anything or anyone this week?
- Were you comforted by someone or did you comfort someone in need?
- Did you work on being humble and putting others first?

Opening Prayer

Leader prays for the group.

Huddle Teams

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

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**.

This is our fifth week in the Beatitudes. We have learned some important things these past few weeks. Let's read the beatitudes passage to see if we can hear the fourth Beatitude. Matthew 5:1-12 (NLT). (*Have a child or student leader 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 the 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.”

So did anyone notice which one is the fourth Beatitude? Who would like to read the fourth Beatitude from Matthew 5:6? (*Allow a child to read*)

Let's play a quick game. Everybody stand up where you are. If you did not eat breakfast this morning, sit down. If you had cereal for breakfast, sit down. If you had eggs for breakfast, sit down. (Keep naming breakfast foods until only a couple of kids are left standing.) Now if you had a slice of cardboard for breakfast, sit down. If you drank water from your dog's water bowl, sit down. Why aren't you all sitting down? What did you have for breakfast? (*Allow standing students to answer and then have them sit down*) So did anyone have cardboard or dog water for breakfast? Why not? (*Allow students to answer*) I've never been hungry for cardboard or dog water! When we eat breakfast, we want to eat things that are good for our bodies and fill us up.

We know what it means to be hungry and thirsty when it comes to our bodies. Our tummies start to growl, our mouths get dry and we may get a little grumpy. Those are signs that we need to eat and drink something to take care of our bodies. But Jesus isn't talking about being physically hungry and thirsty. He's talking about being spiritually hungry and thirsty. When our hearts are hungry and thirsty, we need to fill them with the justice and righteousness of God. We have spent the past few weeks coming to the realization that we are imperfect people who need to learn to be humble and gentle. Our spirits are hungry. When my body is hungry, I crave chicken and dumplings. When my heart and spirit are hungry, I crave justice and righteousness.

Today's Beatitude promises to fill us up with good things. Who wants to re-read today's Beatitude? (*Allow a child to read Matthew 5:6*) When you read the word justice in the Bible it means that something is just and right. It means doing what is right according to God's Laws. So when you let His word set the standard for your life, you are being just. When seeking to do what is pleasing to Him, you

are being just. The problem is, we try to fill ourselves with things other than justice. Let me demonstrate what it might look like when we try to fill ourselves up with things other than those that are just and right with God.

Demonstration:

Supplies Needed:

- Large empty bowl
- Pitcher of water
- Blue food coloring (add before class)
- 1 clear plastic cup with several holes cut out of the bottom
- 1 clear plastic cup (clear if you have it on hand)

Directions:

- Place the bowl and pitcher of water on the table. (Before class, color the water with food coloring)
- Hold up a clear plastic cup that has several holes cut out of the bottom. This cup represents what our lives look like when we try to live our lives without submitting to God, when we try to fill ourselves up with things other than God.
- Hold up the water pitcher. The water in the pitcher represents the blessings and good things God wants to give us.
- Hold the cup over the bowl and slowly pour the water into the cup. It should very quickly drain out of the bottom, like a colander. Like this cup, we can't do our job without God in us. We may try, but we will soon find that we are empty, hungry, and thirsty.

(Leader: Keep these things close to you. You'll continue to use them through the end of the lesson.)

When our hearts are hungry and thirsty God is the only one who can truly fill us up. Being just and right with God means we live the way He wants us to. Something so amazing happens when we start to hunger and thirst for being right and just with God. *(Read 2 Corinthians 5:17)* When we belong to Jesus and choose to follow Him, He gets rid of the old, sinful, broken things in our lives and makes us new! *(hold up the cup with holes and throw it in the trash and then hold up the new clear cup)* When we hunger and thirst for justice, God fills us up. *(Fill the cup until it overflows into the bowl)* God fills us up so much that all the blessings and good things He gives us overflow!

As we close in prayer and as you go about your week, think about filling your heart with all the things that are just and right with God. Pray and thank God for filling your heart. Ask Him to help us to be just and right, like Him, because we can't do it all on our own.

ACTIVITY

Game: Honey Pot Toss

Supplies Needed:

- Tennis balls/bean bags (bees)
- Buckets/jugs with tops cut off (honey pots)

Place the buckets at one end of the room. Have the kids toss the tennis balls into the buckets from various distances. The object game is to teach them that the farther away they are from God then the harder it is to get their hearts (the buckets) filled.

ACTIVITY

Game: I'm so Full

Supplies:

- A closed jar with honeycomb cereal. Make sure to count each piece as you fill the jar. Write the number somewhere for the leaders.
- Piece of paper for each child (to write their guesses on)
- Pens or pencils to write with

Pass around a jar that is filled with Honeycomb cereal. Ask the children to guess how many honeycombs it took to fill this jar. Pass around small pieces of paper for the kids to write their name and their guess of how many honeycombs are in the jar. While they are working on their second activity, go through the pieces of paper to see who came the closest to the actual number. *The jar should be filled and counted before class then keep the number in a safe place like your pocket. Whoever comes closest to the number, gets to take the jar home to share their snack and their lesson.



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