



LESSON 57

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: The character traits Jesus calls us to have.

Bible Character(s): Jesus

Scripture Reference: Matthew 5:3-12



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Matthew 5:3-12. Focus on the character traits and the blessings that come with them. Notice how the characteristics we are called to have are counter to what the world calls us to be. The blessings of following Christ also differ from the rewards the world values. Salvation by God, and an inward contentment and joy, are much greater than any temporary pleasure or reward here on earth. How are these character traits displayed in your life? Do you struggle displaying any of them? Be prepared to share with your campers any struggles you have, or how you see God working in you through manifesting certain character traits. Spend some time in prayer this week asking God to use you to communicate this truth to your campers.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Beatitude & Reward Match Worksheet

Supplies:

Worksheet – Beatitude/Reward Match side (1 per camper)

Have the campers use Matthew 5:3-12 to draw a line from the beatitude to the corresponding reward. Campers will use the smiley face on the back of this worksheet later in the lesson. If time allows now, they're welcome to decorate the faces before Big Group.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE

by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

***Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will focus on the character traits Jesus calls us to have. We will examine each beatitude as well as the condition of our hearts.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What did Mr. Motivational learn about having a “Beatitude Attitude”? (To have real joy in life, we have to be willing to give up our rights and serve others; our life should point to Jesus)

Last week we learned about the power of Jesus. What kind of power does Jesus have? (He has the power to heal, and the power to forgive.) Who was someone Jesus encountered who needed healing? (The paralyzed man.) How did Jesus respond? (Jesus physically healed the man so he could walk. But first, Jesus healed the man’s heart by forgiving His sins.) Jesus can heal each one of us as well. He can physically heal us if we are sick or hurt. He can also heal our hearts by forgiving us of our sin. Each one of us has sin in our heart. The condition of our heart is what is most important to God.

Today we are going to learn about the character traits that Jesus calls us to have. Jesus spent a lot of time teaching His disciples and others. We are going to read about Jesus teaching on a mountainside in Matthew 5, and study the Sermon on the Mount. Each of these verses begins with the words “God blesses” or “blessed are.” These verses are also called the Beatitudes. Beatitude means having contentment and joy all of the time, even when things are hard or sad.

Beatitude Bee-Attitudes



The purpose is to give a practical example of each beatitude.

Supplies:

Set of BEE / HIVE cards (1 set per bin)

Teacher’s Guide – Beatitude Bee-Attitudes side (1 per bin)

You will use the sets of cards as you read through the Tie It Together below. When the activity is over, please clip the set of cards back together.

Tie It Together



As we read through these verses, we will see many attitudes that are very different from

how some people act and behave. For each of the beatitudes we read, we'll give an example of how this might play out in our lives.

Put the Matthew 5:3 BEE card face up on the table and read through the verse.

Matthew 5:3

*3 "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

Does anyone know what the Kingdom of Heaven is? (Allow responses.) The Kingdom of Heaven is not just a place we go when we die. When we realize that we need God, and we believe and trust in Him, we can experience the Kingdom of Heaven now. We do not have to wait until we get to Heaven to have a relationship with God and experience His blessings. We can receive the Kingdom of Heaven now and be joyful and content no matter what our circumstances are. This can be a really hard thing to understand. Let's look at a situation that might help you understand what this means. Flip the Matthew 5:3 card over and read the scenario. Explain that Jeffrey realized he was "poor" (sinful heart) and in need of God to stop lying to his parents. If time allows, you can ask campers for another example scenario.

Let's continue reading. Put the verse BEE face up on the table.

Matthew 5:4

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

What does it mean to mourn? (To be sad.) Name some things that make you sad. (Allow responses.) This verse says God blesses those who are sad. When you are sad, it usually means that something around you is making you sad. Even when we are sad or going through hard times, God will comfort us and bless us. We can still have joy even when things around us are hard or when we are sad. Let's read a story about a girl named Sarah who mourned and was comforted. Flip the Matthew 5:4 card over and read the situation about Sarah. Talk through the practical application of this scenario and the "BEE attitude" that corresponds with it.

Let's look at the next verse. Put the verse BEE face up on the table.

Matthew 5:5

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

What does it mean to be "humble?" (Allow responses.) Another word for this is meek. When you are humble or meek, you do not try to do things your own way and depend on your own strength. You know you need help. You trust that God is enough, and He will give you all you need. Let's read a situation that will give us a better idea of what it means to be meek. Flip the card over and read the Jacob scenario. Allow time for questions and further explanation.

Continue this process throughout the rest of the verses – put the BEE card on the table, read the verse, and then flip the card to read the scenario. Be sure to spend time answering questions or

explaining the relevance, so the campers are getting a good understanding of what these verses mean for them in their lives.

Matthew 5:6

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

What is justice? (Things that are good and right.) To hunger and thirst for justice means to want God to show us what is good and right. It is not trying to do good things because it makes us feel good about ourselves. It is a desire to live a good and right life by obeying God because it gives God glory. Who wants to read about Elizabeth?

Matthew 5:7

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

Can anyone tell me what mercy is? (Allow responses.) Mercy is kindness, forgiveness and compassion. When we are merciful, we are kind to someone. We forgive others and show compassion to them, even when they do not deserve it. Do you want others to be kind to you, to show you mercy? (Allow responses.) This verse says that God will show them mercy as well.

Matthew 5:8

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

What does it mean to have pure heart? (Complete devotion, undivided, focused on God alone.) (Read 1 Samuel 16:7.)

If you obey your mom, but you complain about it, do you think your heart is pure? (Allow responses.) God wants us to have the right attitude, or the right heart, not just the right actions. He looks at our heart, our thoughts and reasons for what we say and do, not our outward appearance. This verse says that those whose hearts are pure will see God. When our hearts are pure, we can know God more, understand Him more and experience His blessings.

Matthew 5:9

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

What do you think it means to be a peacemaker? (Allow responses.) To be a peacemaker means to encourage others to get along and love each other as Christ loves them. How can you be a peacemaker with your friends or your brother/sister? (Allow responses.)

Matthew 5:10-11

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

11 "God 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.

There will be times when people might think you are crazy because you believe in God and follow Him. They might pick on you or make fun of you so that you are persecuted. This verse says God blesses those who experience persecution because they are living for Him. God can give you joy no matter what is going on around you or what you are experiencing!

Matthew 5:12

12 Be 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.

God calls us to have the attitudes that we have talked about, but these attitudes come from God. When we believe and trust in God, He gives us new life. He changes our heart and fills us with His Spirit so we can learn to live in a way that gives Him the glory.

Overflow of the Heart



The purpose is to see that our attitudes are an overflow of our heart.

Supplies:

Cup (1 per bin)

Pie pan or bowl (1 per bin)

Bottle of water (1 per bin)

Pour water in the cup until it is filled to the top, and place it in the pie pan or bowl. Ask the campers what will happen if you continue pouring water into the cup. What will come out of the cup? Demonstrate this by pouring more water into the full cup of water.

Tie It Together



What happened when I poured more water into the cup? Water flowed out of the cup because the cup was full of water. When our heart is filled with the love of God, our attitudes and actions change. The love of God flows out and shows in our actions. Actions do not earn God's love. Our good attitudes and actions are a result of our relationship with Jesus.

Displaying the Beatitudes



The purpose is to examine how the beatitudes can be seen in our lives.

Supplies:

Worksheet from earlier (1 per camper)

Teacher's Guide – scenarios side (1 per bin)

Make sure each camper has his or her worksheet with a smiley face from earlier. Explain that you will read through different scenarios, and each time a scenario is read where one of the Beatitudes is displayed, the campers should hold up the smiley face. If a scenario does not have a Beatitude displayed, the campers should leave their smiley faces on the table.

Tie It Together



Sometimes it might be hard to respond in a way that glorifies God, but when we have a changed heart that desires to follow Jesus, our heart begins to reflect the different attitudes we read about in Matthew 5. Think about how God can change your heart so that your life brings Him glory.

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to show you how to live a life that glorifies Him, and to change your heart to reflect the love He has for all.



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