

Sermon on the Mount part 1

The Beatitudes and intro (Matthew 5:1-12)

Checklist: - Pens and Paper for the “Blessed” Opening

1. “Blessed” Opening

Pass around pens and paper. Have youth make a list of people they think are blessed and why. And have a couple or so volunteers share.

2. Who Jesus says is blessed:

Don't let youth open their Bibles or read along with you this first time...

*Read the first part of all of the Beatitudes (from Matthew 5:3-11) – in other words, read the “blessed are the _____” parts. **Don't read** the “for theirs is...” parts.*

Then ask: which of these people sound blessed and which don't? Why?

3. A look at each Beatitude:

Now, have youth open up their Bibles to Matthew 5.

Read Matthew 5:1-2 to briefly set the scene of the passage.

Then read the first part of each Beatitudes from 5:3-11 again, but this time read them one at a time. And, after each individual Beatitude is read, do these four steps before going on to the next Beatitude...

- 1. Ask: Why is this person blessed? (Let students read why).*
- 2. Make sure youth understand what it means (for instance poor in spirit may mean “humble and realize they need God”).*
- 3. Discuss how it's true that the person is blessed and whether or not they might experience that blessing on earth or in heaven (or both).*
- 4. And, as appropriate, challenge youth to live how it says (such as “pure in heart”)*

4. God-minded vs. world-minded

Explain these points (in your own words):

- If we just have a world-perspective, it seems like some of the things Jesus says would be bad (like being persecuted or mourning), especially as it's happening.
- But, if we have a God-perspective, we can see how each of these things makes us blessed.
- Jesus doesn't say this type of person might be blessed.
- He says they are blessed and they will receive these things!

5. Application: *Ask:* What encouragement or challenge did you hear today for you?

6. Closing Prayer

This lesson copied or adapted from YouthBibleLessons.org. See YouthBibleLessons.org Lessons page for copying/adapting terms.