

WEEK 8: THE BEATITUDES

HIGH SCHOOL

GOALS

What are the Beatitudes?

LESSON

Materials Needed: Bible, Signpost Handouts, Pencils or Pens

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pgs 63-85

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew by Blessed Theophylact, pgs 44-55

Homily XV on Matthew by St. John Chrysostom

THE BEATITUDES

Matthew 5:1-20

Crowds of people are following Jesus near the Sea of Galilee. They've all heard about how He heals people and they have come from near and far in hopes that He will heal them as well.

Jesus goes up onto the nearby mountain to pray for awhile and later His disciples join Him. "Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying..." Jesus taught people both silently through His actions and also through formal instruction. This is one of those times when He is actively teaching, He is also teaching each and every one of us today how to be His followers:

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

The "poor in spirit" are those who are humble.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Those "who mourn" are those who weep for their own sins and the sins of others. They continually seek forgiveness for their sins and pray for others.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

A meek person is one who is patient and quiet in nature when others are trying to upset them. They have the ability to become angry, but choose to use self control instead and stay calm.

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

A righteous person is someone who has acquired all the virtues. Those who hunger and thirst (long for and desire) righteousness, put their trust in God and not in money, possessions, or themselves.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

The Greek word for almsgiving means mercifulness. We are merciful when we help others by giving them money. We can also show mercy through our words and actions. God will show mercy to us to the same degree we show mercy to others.

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

Someone with a pure heart has kept their body and soul clean. St. Theophylact explains to us, "Just as a mirror will reflect images only if it is clean, so also only a pure soul admits the vision of God and the understanding of the Scriptures."

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

Peacemakers are kind and loving to everyone. Peacemakers will also reconcile with those who are at odds with themselves or others. Additionally, peacemakers will convert enemies of God through their teaching.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Those that are "persecuted for righteousness' sake" are harassed or oppressed for their belief in God. Thieves and robbers are also persecuted, but are not blessed and promised the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

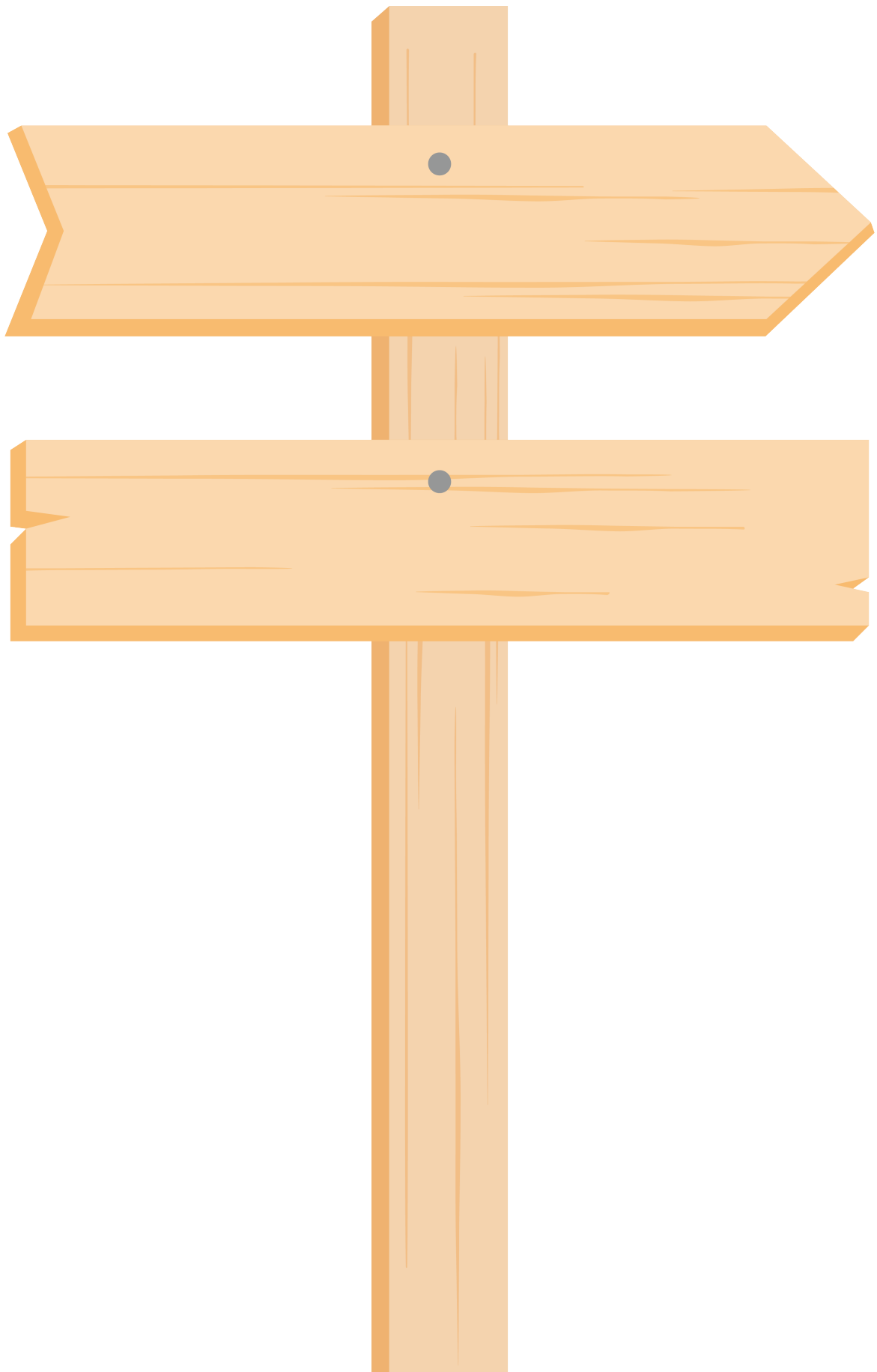
The previous Beatitudes were directed at the crowd of people present during the Sermon on the Mount. This particular Beatitude is directed at the disciples (and later apostles) because they teach about Christ. This Beatitude is explaining that if you are being persecuted because you are teaching others about Christ, great is your reward in heaven.

SIGNPOST ACTIVITY:

Explain to your students that when we go on a road trip, we follow the signs along the side of the road for guidance and direction as we strive to reach our destination. The Beatitudes were provided to us by Jesus as guidance and direction to reach our common goal - the kingdom of heaven.

Separate the students into groups and assign them one Beatitude. Provide them with the graphic of a signpost on the next page and have them write their Beatitude at the top of the signpost. Then ask them to brainstorm together how this would apply to them in their lives today.

Then, as a class, discuss each group's signposts.



WEEK 8: THE BEATITUDES

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOALS

What are the Beatitudes?

LESSON

Materials Needed: Bibles, Buzzers, Timelines, Scissors, Glue or Tape, Pencils

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

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THE BEATITUDES - BIBLE PRACTICE

Place one buzzer on each table. Pass out one Bible to each student and ask them to leave them closed until you tell them to go.

Write each of the following Bible verse on the board:

Matthew 5:1-2

When you say, "Go!" everyone can open their Bibles and search for the Bible passage. The first person to hit the buzzer wins. (Optional: you can give the winner a piece of candy) Read the Bible verses, discuss, and then instruct everyone to close their Bibles again.

Write the next Bible verse on the board and when you say, "Go!" everyone can open their Bibles again, search for the verse, hit the buzzer when they find it, read and discuss. *The goal here is to reinforce finding where Matthew is located in the Bible and finding different verses.

Matthew 5:3

Continue as before, writing only one Bible verse on the board at a time:

Matthew 5:4

Matthew 5:5

Matthew 5:6

Matthew 5:7

Matthew 5:8

Matthew 5:9

Matthew 5:10

Matthew 5:11-12

WEEK 8: THE BEATITUDES

3RD & 4TH GRADE

GOALS

What are the Beatitudes?

LESSON

Materials Needed: Bibles, Worksheet, Timelines, Scissors, Tape, Pencils

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pgs 63-85

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THE BEATITUDES - BIBLE PRACTICE

1. Hand out your Bibles and verbally instruct your students to find Matthew 5:1 and also write the verse on the board.

Read the Beatitudes together. Explain to your students that when we go on a road trip, we follow the signs along the side of the road for guidance and direction as we strive to reach our destination. The Beatitudes were provided to us by Jesus as guidance and direction to reach our common goal - the kingdom of heaven.

2. Pass out the worksheets and pencils to your students and let them use their Bible to complete it.

THE BEATITUDES

Directions: Using your Bible as a guide, draw a line to the correct ending for each Beatitude.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who mourn, Rejoice and be exceedingly glad,
for great is your reward in
heaven, for so they persecuted
the prophets who were before
you.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall be filled.

Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness, for they shall be called sons of
God.

Blessed are the merciful, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are those who are
persecuted for righteousness' sake, for they shall see God.

Blessed are you when they revile
and persecute you, and say all
kinds of evil against you falsely for
My sake. for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

WEEK 8: THE BEATITUDES

1ST & 2ND GRADE

GOALS

What are the Beatitudes?

LESSON

Materials Needed: Bibles, Coloring Sheet, Crayons

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CLASS ROUTINE

Continue routine - move photo, light candle, venerate icon, prayer before beginning lesson

THE BEATITUDES

Read “The Sermon on the Mount” and “Love Your Enemies” on page 193 of the Orthodox Children’s Bible Reader.

Lesson Options:

- Show students where the Sea of Galilee is located on the classroom map of the Holy Land. Explain to them that Jesus was on a mountain near this body of water.
- Ask the children to retell the story to you using the felt Bible characters
- Discuss friendship and forgiveness - Bring two children to the front of the class and provide them with a scenario. Bobby accidentally dropped your favorite toy and a piece of it broke off. How can you handle this situation in a kind and forgiving way? Continue with other scenarios with other children. Provide them the opportunity to think through a kind and forgiving way to approach the situation and guide them when necessary.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Continue practice singing, “Lord, have mercy” in multiple languages

LOVE ONE ANOTHER



MATTHEW 5:43

WEEK 8: THE BEATITUDES

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

GOALS

What are the Beatitudes?

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

MATTHEW 5:43

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LOVE ONE ANOTHER

MATTHEW 5:43

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

MATTHEW 5:4

