

SERMON ON THE MOUNT: A SERIES IN MATTHEW

**Week Five — The Beatitudes****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

Beatitudes comes from the Latin word for blessing — or a deep sense of happiness and fulfillment. This is not a list for us to check off in order to attain the blessed life, but statements Jesus made about what life in the Kingdom is like. Jesus is teaching that all blessing is found within his Kingdom and reminds us that though he has already brought the Kingdom in part, it is not yet here in full — so hold on for hope until it comes!

- **Big Idea:** The good life belongs to those who do not find pleasure in this world but hope in the Kingdom of God.

Starter**Evidences of Grace**

- Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything good, big or small, is from God. Take time to thank God together.
- **Ask:** What does the word **ble^ss** mean? How do we bless others? What does it mean to say that you are blessed?
- **Imagine:** Two people: one with a big house, two cars, and gets to travel all over the world; the other lives outside on the streets, borrows money for food, and is often sick. Which one would you say is blessed?

Sing Together

Story — from Matthew 4:23-5:12

Jesus had gone throughout the region of Galilee teaching and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom and healing every kind of disease and sickness in the people. He even cast out demons, helped paralyzed people get up and walk, and healed people suffering from pain. Large crowds from all over that region and nearby started following him. When he saw the crowds, he brought them up on a mountainside and sat down.

He began to teach them, saying:

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

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

Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

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

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

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

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Jesus brought good news of blessing coming to people who were suffering. He continued teaching with many more sayings about what it looked like to live in the Kingdom of Heaven. Many of his words were encouraging, many of them were challenging, and all of them were astounding to the people listening.

Dialogue Questions: *[you may use some or all]*

- ▶ After hearing Jesus' words, now what do you think it means to be blessed?
- ▶ Would you consider someone blessed who is poor in spirit, or mourns, or is persecuted?
- ▶ Do you think Jesus wants us to work to become those things? Does he want us to mourn? Or is it possible Jesus wants us to see we already experience these things in a broken world and wants us to recognize our need for his kingdom to come?
- ▶ How have we seen Jesus experience all of these things?
 - *he became poor in spirit by leaving his throne in heaven*
 - *he mourned as he wept over Jerusalem*
 - *in meekness and humility he went to the cross*
 - *in righteousness he always did the Father's will*
 - *he showed mercy as he prayed forgiveness for those torturing him*
 - *pure of heart he never sinned and brought peace to the world*
 - *he was persecuted and put to death in order to bring the kingdom in full*

Breakout Time

Pray:

God, thank you for sending Jesus to show us what your kingdom is like and to invite us into it. Help us to see the good life (being blessed) is found only in Jesus. Amen.

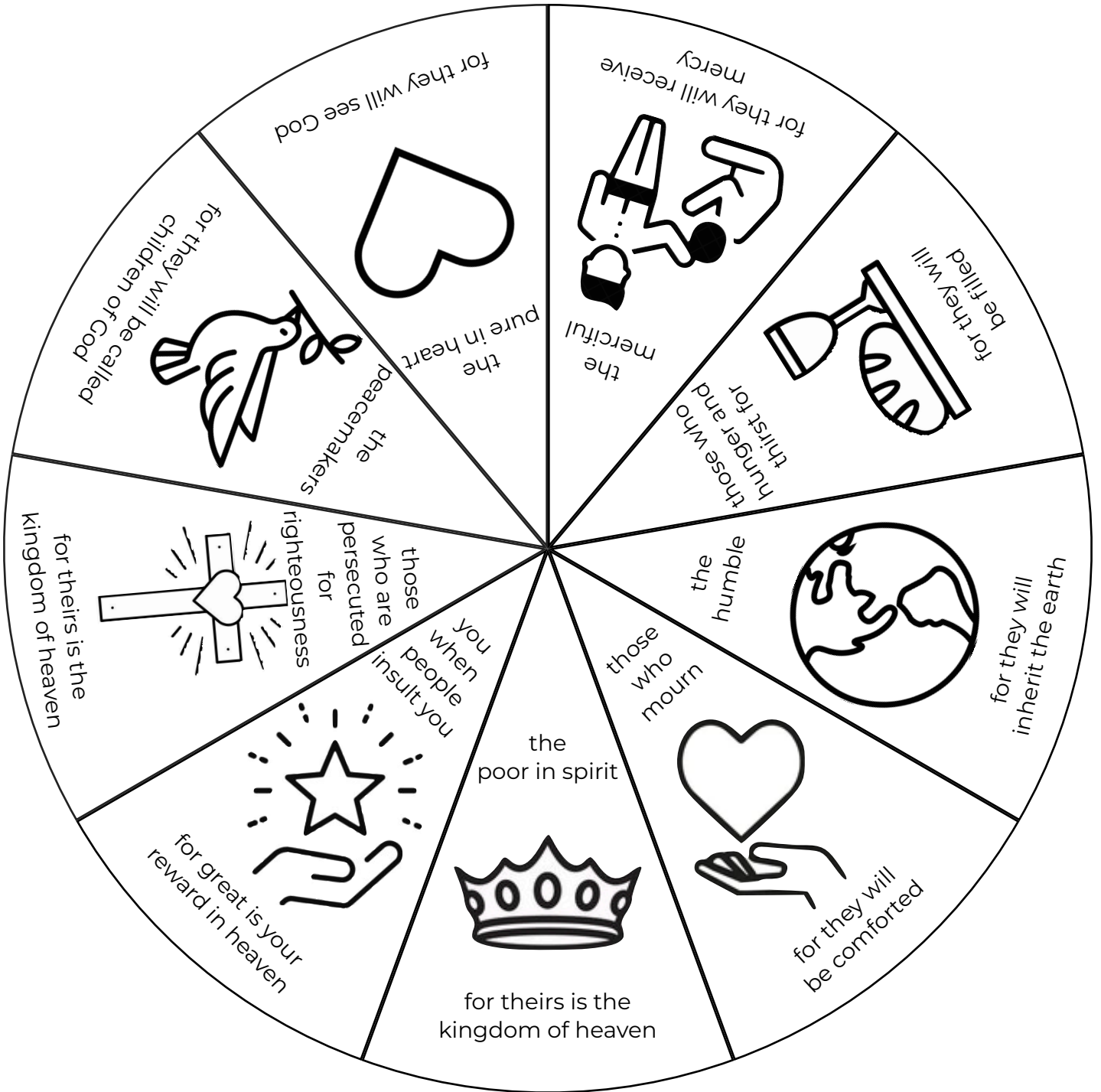
Craft:

- Color and cut out the two sheets attached to create a spin wheel of the beatitudes for kids to remember them at home.

BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Bless** rhythm.

You have been blessed by God through Jesus! How can you be a blessing to others this week by showing them the good life in God's kingdom?



BEATITUDES

Matthew 5:1-12

*Blessed
are the...*

cut out this section

