

## Family Lesson 57

**Principle:** The character traits Jesus calls us to have.

**Bible Character(s):** Jesus

**Scripture Reference:** Matthew 5:3-12

**1. Worship** - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

**2. Skit Video** - Watch the [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.

**3. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

### Bible Lesson

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 did Jesus encounter 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 of this activity is to give a practical example of each beatitude. The lesson will prompt you to flip a card over as you read through each verse in the lesson.

#### Supplies:

Set of BEE / HIVE cards (found on [Kids Resource Page](#))

Teacher's Guide – Beatitude Bee-Attitudes side (found on [Kids Resource Page](#))

**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.**

Place the Matthew 5:3 BEE card verse-side up and read through the verse.

#### Matthew 5:3

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

**Do you 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 your child for another example scenario.

**Let's continue reading.** Place the BEE card verse-side up.

**Matthew 5:4**

*<sup>4</sup> 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.** Place the BEE card verse-side up.

**Matthew 5:5**

*<sup>5</sup> 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 – place 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 your child is getting a good understanding of what these verses mean for them in their lives.

**Matthew 5:6**

*<sup>6</sup> 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. Let's read about Elizabeth.**

**Matthew 5:7**

*<sup>7</sup> God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

**Can you 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**

*<sup>8</sup> God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.*

**What does it mean to have a 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. Match the correct "hive" with the right "bee" (verse 8).**

**Matthew 5:9**

*<sup>9</sup> 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.) Let's see if we can match the right "bee" with the correct "hive" showing peace (verse 9).

### Matthew 5:10-11

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

<sup>11</sup> "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

<sup>12</sup> 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.

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

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close the lesson. 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.

### Activity

#### Overflow of the Heart

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

#### Supplies:

- Cup
- Pie pan or bowl
- Bottle of water

Pour water in the cup until it is filled to the top, and place it in the pie pan or bowl. Ask your child 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.

