

WEEK FIVE

THE BEATITUDES – BEAUTIFUL ATTITUDES

BIG IDEA

IN GOD'S KINGDOM *there is* WONDERFUL NEWS

FOR THE HUMBLE, THE POOR, THE MOURNERS AND THE PEACEMAKERS, BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

PREP

- Cut out the hearts (attitudes) from the appendix and hide them around the room.
- Find two pots (or buckets).
- Find a soup ladle.
- A clothes peg for each person.
- Some sweets (gold-wrapped chocolate coins work well).

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- The blessings (treasures).
- A packet of cotton wool balls.
- A blindfold.



INTRO

We are going to talk about the Beatitudes – words we use to describe what Jesus taught us about being blessed or happy. Most of us think that to be happy means to have lots of money or be liked by everyone. But Jesus said really different things about happiness than what we might expect.

You see Jesus brought a different kingdom when he came to earth – the kingdom of God. And He announced the good news that this kingdom is now here with us. Jesus taught us God's way of looking at everything. He sort of turned the world upside down, and He said things like the first shall be last, the least is the greatest, the poor are rich. That really sounds upside down don't you think?

“CHRISTIANITY IS SOMETHING THAT IS NOT TAUGHT IN EVERYDAY LIFE. THE VALUES OF EVERYDAY LIFE ARE BUYING THINGS, HAVING FUN, OWNING POSSESSIONS, BEING IMPORTANT.”

- RYAN, 10 YEARS -

Have you heard kids say things like “I’m the best!” “I’m the fastest!” “My..... (tower, picture, car etc) is way better than yours!”

Do you know that Jesus has some very interesting things to say to people who say “I’m the Greatest!”

He said that to be the greatest, we must be a servant; and that if we are humble, God will notice and lift us up and our life will count in a **real** way.

GAME

Attitude Hunt

- Give everyone a clothes peg.

Around the room we have hidden some hearts with different attitudes written on them. Some are the humble attitudes that we call the beatitudes and others are attitudes that are not so great, because they are really lies about what makes us happy.

When the buzzer goes you have to run and see how many hearts you can find. Clip them on to your peg and then come back to Family Time.

- Have everyone lay out the hearts and sort out the good attitudes from the false blessings.

Have you heard anyone say that a person has 'attitude'. Sometimes parents say, "I don't like your attitude," or "Don't get an attitude with me." And sometimes they praise you, "I'm so happy you had such a good attitude about that..."

Did you know that the Latin root of the word 'Beatitude', meaning 'blessed,' is made up of 'bea' meaning good' and translates into English as 'beautiful' or 'beauty' or even 'bountiful.'

So the Beatitudes are really about having beautiful attitudes!!!

- "What do you think 'blessed' means?"

To be blessed doesn't mean that everything will go well for us all the time. But being blessed by God, means that we will know God's joy and hope and peace, no matter what happens to us, or what our circumstances are.

OUT OF THE BOX

- Now take out the 'treasure cards', turn them over and see if the children can match each beatitude with its particular blessing.

Question

- If you were a king and could make the rules so that people were blessed - what rules would you make?

When Jesus taught the disciples the Beatitudes he was announcing the beginning of a new way of thinking. It was like an explosion going off in their heads because he said that people who chose to think and live like this are in good shape - they are blessed. And when that happens God's kingdom changes people's hearts everywhere.



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GAME

- Take out the cotton wool balls. Tip them into one of the pots.
- Set up two chairs at least five feet (1.5m) apart and facing the same direction. Put a pot or bucket on each chair.
- Blindfold a child, turn them around a few times and place them in front of the chair with the cotton balls.
- Place the soup ladle in their hand and touch the edge of the pot or bucket with the cotton balls in it, just to give them an idea where it is.
- When you say “go” they have 60 seconds to see how many cotton balls they can scoop into the spoon and place in the empty pot/bucket on the other chair.
- At the end of each player’s turn, count the cotton balls that actually made it into the opposite pot/bucket.
- Keep a tally on paper until all players have had a turn. The one to transfer the most cotton balls successfully is the winner. Let this child hand around the sweets (treasures).



FAMILY TALK TIME

- **When you couldn’t feel or see the cotton balls – did it mean that they weren’t real?**

Well God’s kingdom is a bit like that. Even though we may not see it we know it is more real than the other things people put their trust in – things like fame or money, or being important. We know that God’s treasures last for ever.

The Beatitudes are really a picture of how Jesus lived, and how He taught us to follow him. He tells us that we will be blessed. That means we have a deep happiness, and live joyfully when we have these qualities in our lives. Jesus also says that there are rewards for those who choose to live like this.

READ

Jesus is full of mercy and kindness – he wants us to have hearts like His. He said:

““ Do you want to stand out? Then step down. Be a servant. If you puff yourself up, you’ll get the wind knocked out of you. But if you’re content to simply be yourself, your life will count for plenty. ””

Matthew 23:11,12 The Message

- **What do you think these words mean?**
- **What does it mean to ‘puff yourself up’?**
- **Can you think of ways in which Jesus ‘served’ us when He came to earth?**

We can trust God to look after us. We can serve others and not worry about putting ourselves first because God has promised he will look after us. We can have hope and joy even when we are going through hardship because we know God will never abandon us. Those who put their trust in God, and not in their own strength, realise that blessings come from the grace of God.

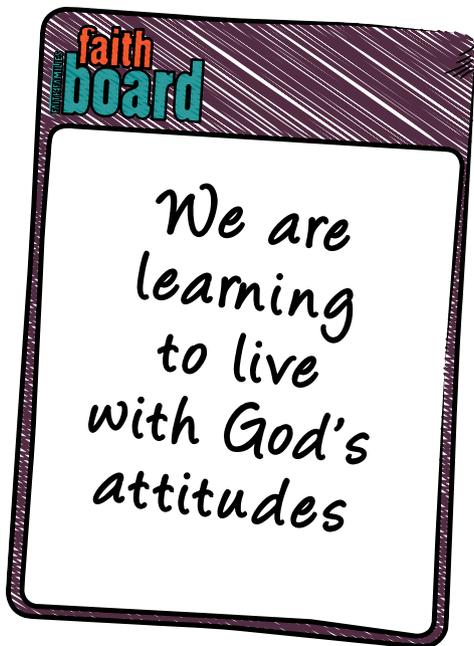
PRAY

- Take the false blessings and screw them up.

“Dear God help me to love the things that you love, and not fight for the things that are not full of blessing. Help me to really care about others, and leave my rewards in your hands.”

LIVE

This week start to learn the beatitudes. During dinner time take turns at saying the first half of a beatitude and the others reply with the blessing (i.e. “Blessed are the merciful... for they shall receive mercy.”)



OTHER IDEAS

- Being thankful for thankless jobs. Many people humbly do jobs that make our lives easier but seldom get thanked. Think of some of these people e.g. rubbish collector, school caretaker, librarian... Think of a way you could say thank you to one of these people this week.
- Game: Knock, Knock. Make a set of cards that say the qualities recognised in the Beatitudes e.g. mercy, meekness etc. Choose one person to be King/Queen and sit them on their throne. Set up a pile of cushions next to the throne with some treats and toys, which is to be the kingdom. Place the cards face down on the floor in front of them. The rest line up and have turns coming before the King/Queen, and say “Knock, knock.” When the king/queen says they may enter, they choose a card. They must then tell the royalty an example of the quality on the card, e.g. meekness – I will not show off about getting a good mark in my maths test. The King/Queen must then guess the quality they are showing and if they think it is a good example, they allow them to enter the kingdom and enjoy the treats.

**CHECK OUT WHAT YOU
NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...**



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BLESSED ARE
THE POOR IN
SPIRIT

BLESSED ARE
THOSE WHO
MOURN

BLESSED ARE
THE MEEK

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER
RIGHTEOUSNESS

BLESSED ARE
THE MERCIFUL

BLESSED ARE
THE PURE IN
HEART

BLESSED ARE THE
PEACEMAKERS

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE
OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN PEOPLES
INSULT YOU, PERSECUTE
YOU AND FALSELY SAY ALL
KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU
BECAUSE OF ME

BLESSED ARE YOU
IF YOU HAVE LOTS
OF MONEY

BLESSED IS THE
MOST POPULAR
PERSON IN THE
CLASS

BLESSED ARE YOU IF
YOU BRAG ALL THE
TIME ABOUT WHAT
YOU HAVE

BLESSED ARE
THOSE WITH THE
MOST TOYS

BLESSED ARE YOU IF
YOU ARE FAMOUS AND
GET TO BE ON TV

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