



Younger IK Groups- PreK- 1st grade

February 19, 2025

Bible Story: The Beatitudes- Matthew 5:3-12

Big Idea: God blesses those who struggle.

The Win: Kids who can identify and take their next step of discipleship by embracing a preschooler's physical needs or engaging an elementary kid in things that interest them.

Wednesday Share:

Tonight during Impact Kids, we looked at Matthew 5:3-12. Jesus begins his most famous sermon, the Sermon on the Mount, with something known as the Beatitudes. In this section of his sermon, Jesus lists kinds of people who seem lowly or down and out and names the reward they are promised. Jesus flips everything upside down by demonstrating that those who seem to be struggling are actually blessed. Kids' moods are very contingent on their present circumstances. Help kids see that regardless of whether their circumstances seem good or bad, God is blessing them!

Leader Devo:

<https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2025/02/12/feb-19>

Dig In to Prayer:

If you know of any specific struggles your kids are facing, ask God to show the kids his blessings.

Quick Tip:

How you respond to kids' temporary struggles in class can help train them to move forward. For example, if a child is upset about something, give him space to express his feelings openly, and then encourage him to choose a new attitude. If a child wants something and didn't get it, encourage her that not always getting what we want is an important step in building a good character.

Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM
4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM
K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM
4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM

Low Energy Game:

Supplies

- paper plates (1 per child)
- ping-pong balls (1 per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Talk About Hard Games

Say: Playing games can be lots of fun, but sometimes a game is hard and takes lots of practice to learn.

Share about a game you had to work to master, such as basketball, chess, or a video game.

Ask: Tell me about a game that's hard for you. Kids may say it's hard to find a good hiding place in Hide-and-Seek, pay close attention in Simon Says, or count the squares in Candy Land.

Play a Hard Game

Say: When we play a hard game, it helps to have someone encourage us as we play. Let's play a game with these plates and balls. It might be hard, but your leaders will be here to cheer you on!

- Give each child a plate and a ball.
- Encourage kids to try to go as fast as they can around the room while keeping the ball balanced on the plate. If some kids have an easy time keeping the ball from rolling off the plate, encourage them to hold the plate with only one hand, or have them turn the plate upside down and give that a try.
- Ask adult and teen helpers to join you in giving kids lots of encouragement as they struggle to keep the ball on the plate.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Say: That was a hard game! It was a struggle to keep the ball on the plate. But we were here to cheer you on and encourage you to keep trying. When we have hard things to do in our lives, God is there to encourage us and help us in our struggles. That's a blessing! God blesses those who struggle

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch "Fortune's Story"

Say: We're learning that God blesses those who struggle. Let's watch the story of a boy who faced some struggles but saw God's blessings.

Watch "Fortune's Story."

Ask: • What's the hardest thing about Fortune's life?

- What were good things about Fortune's life?
- Tell about some struggles you've faced. How did you see God's blessings come out of those times? Share your own example first.

Say: Fortune faced some hard times when his mom lost the use of her legs, but he saw God's blessings when his community helped get his mom a new wheelchair. Plus, Fortune got to go to school and have water from a well. Fortune had friends to play soccer with, food to eat, and pet goats! And Fortune's mom had a job making nets. No matter what hard times we go through, we can look for God's blessings, because God blesses those who struggle.

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bible
- 18-inch squares of clear contact paper (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)
- blue, green, red, and yellow tissue paper (two 4-inch squares of each color per child)
- painter's tape
- Easy Prep: Peel off the backing from each contact paper square. Use painter's tape to secure the squares, sticky side up, to a table or the floor. Make sure there's plenty of room around each square for kids to gather.



Talk About Sad Things

Form groups of five or six kids, and have each group gather around a contact paper square.

Say: Today we're talking about hard things that happen in our lives. Let's make special windows to help us think about some hard things, like sad times.

Share about something sad that happened to you. Maybe you had to move away from your family, someone you love passed away, or you didn't get the job you wanted.

Ask: • Tell me about something sad that's happened to you. Kids may say they didn't get to go to the park because it rained, their dog died, or their grandma got sick and couldn't visit.

Give each child two squares of blue tissue paper, and say: God loves us, and he's always with us when we're sad. When someone is sad, we might say they feel blue. Let's stick these blue papers to our special windows to remind us that God is with us when we're sad. Encourage kids to stick their blue squares to the contact paper.

Talk About Unfair Things

Say: Sometimes things happen that don't seem fair. Share about something that happened to you that didn't seem fair. It could be that you got a speeding ticket when someone else was driving even faster than you or the umpire called you out when you thought you were safe.

Ask: • Tell me about something you thought was unfair. Kids may say they didn't get as many cookies as their brother, their friend got to go to the pool and they didn't, or their sister gets to stay up later than they do.

Give each child two squares of green tissue paper, and say: God loves us, and he's taking care of us, even when things don't seem fair. Let's stick these green papers to our special windows to remind us that God is with us when things aren't fair. Encourage kids to stick their green squares to the contact paper.

Deeper Bible:- cont.

Talk About Hurt Feelings

Say: Sometimes people say and do things that hurt our feelings. Share about something that hurt your feelings. Maybe your brother said something unkind to you or a friend stopped wanting to hang out with you.

Ask: · Tell about a time someone hurt your feelings. Kids may say that someone said something mean to them, didn't let them join a game, or pushed them on the playground. Encourage kids to avoid naming specific people.

Give each child two squares of red tissue paper, and say: God loves us and comforts us when people hurt us. Let's stick these red papers to our special windows to remind us that God is with us when people hurt us. Encourage kids to stick their red squares to the contact paper.

Talk About Hard Things

Say: It can be hard to learn to do new things. Sometimes we aren't very good at them.

Share about something you can't do very well. You may not be good at baseball, you may have a hard time with math, or you burn things when you try to cook.

Ask: · Tell me something that's hard for you to do. Kids may say they have a hard time writing their letters, they don't run very fast, or they can't catch a ball.

Give each child two squares of yellow tissue paper, and say: God loves us. He's there with us to help us do hard things. Let's stick these yellow papers to our special windows to remind us that God helps us do hard things. Encourage kids to stick their yellow squares to the contact paper.

Say: We all have times we struggle. But God blesses those who struggle. He blesses us by being with us and helping us in hard times. He also promises to turn hard things into good things.

Listen to this! **Read aloud Romans 8:28.** Then ask adult or teen helpers to help you pick up the contact paper squares and turn them around so kids can see the finished designs.

Say: Our hard things made these beautiful designs we can hang on our window (or on the wall). They can remind us that God has good things for us, even in hard times. God blesses those who struggle. Use tape to hang the contact paper on a window or wall. Then lead kids to pray, thanking God that he is with them in hard times.

Life Application:

Supplies:

- "Beatitude Blessings" handout (1 copy for every 5 kids)

Pass It

Have kids sit in leader-led groups. **Say:** Today we learned God blesses those who struggle. Jesus said God blesses people who are poor and humble by welcoming them into his special family. Have each group pass around the crown from the handout, and have adult or teen helpers encourage kids to say, "God, thank you that I can be part of your special family."

Say: Jesus also said God blesses people who are sad by being with them in their sadness. God gives us people to be sad with us. Have each group pass around the image of the hugging people, and have helpers encourage kids to say, "God, thank you that I'm not alone when I'm sad."

Say: Jesus said God blesses people who make right and good choices. God gives them everything they need. Have each group pass around the image of heaven, and have helpers encourage kids to say, "God, thank you for giving me everything I need and inviting me to live with you forever in heaven."

Say: Jesus says God blesses those who forgive others. He says these people will be forgiven, too. Even when we fall down and mess up, God forgives us. Have each group pass around the image of the person helping someone up, and have helpers encourage kids to say, "God, thank you for forgiving me for the wrong things I do."

Life Application: cont.

Say: Jesus says God blesses people who are peaceful. He says the peaceful are God's children! Have each group pass around the image of the children holding hands, and have helpers encourage kids to say, "God, thank you for being a great dad!"

Close in Prayer

Say: God blesses those who struggle. Whether you're poor or sad or people are making fun of you, God is with you! God will always take care of you. You can trust him! Close in prayer. Thank kids for joining you at church, and let them know they're welcome to come back next week and join their friends in learning more about Jesus.

Activity Page with a Point:

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: We're learning about a time Jesus stood up on a hill to teach a big crowd of people! He taught that God blesses those who struggle. Let's color Jesus teaching.

Allow time for kids to color.

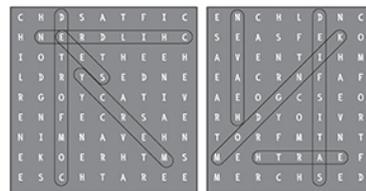
Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that God blesses those who struggle. Today's puzzle may be a bit of a struggle because you'll have to look in two word searches to find the list of rewards Jesus promises.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will find the words in the word searches. As kids work, offer genuine words of help and encouragement.

- Ask:**
- What words describe how you felt doing such a challenging word search?
 - Now tell about a time in real life when you felt [some of the feelings kids shared].
 - I tried to give you some help and encouragement as you worked. Who helps you when you struggle in life? What do they do?

Say: We all struggle at times. We all face challenges. But Jesus said God blesses those who struggle. He promises good things when we keep going!



Answer Key: Older Kids

"God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,
for the Kingdom of heaven is theirs.
God blesses those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
God blesses those who are humble,
for they will inherit the whole earth.
God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they will be satisfied.
God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
God blesses those whose hearts are pure,
for they will see God.
God blesses those who work for peace,
for they will be called the children of God.
God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,
for the Kingdom of heaven is theirs."