



Older IK Groups- 2nd - 5th Grades

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

- wooden kitchen spoons (1 for every 4 kids)
- metal pots or kitchen kettles (1 for every 12 kids)
- whiteboard or poster board and markers
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Play a Quick-Response Word Game

Say: We're talking about how God blesses those who struggle. Sometimes our struggles are physical, and sometimes we struggle with our thoughts and feelings. Let's struggle right now to figure out some answers!

- Form teams of four, and give each team a wooden spoon.
- Place three teams around a pot.
- Explain that you'll present a list of words, and teams can discuss the answer. The first team to hit a kettle with a wooden spoon will have the chance to answer first. If the answer is correct, the team gets a point; if it's incorrect, the team loses a point. The goal of the game is to accumulate points.
- You'll read three words aloud, and teams are to come up with a word that can go in front of all three to make words with a common beginning. For example, "beat, burn, and broken" become heartbeat, heartburn, and heartbroken by adding the word "heart."
- Keep score on a whiteboard or poster board as kids play.

Here are combinations of words to use:

1. lash, lid, and brow (eye)
2. side, to, door (in)
3. brush, paste, ache (tooth)
4. ground, weight, water (under)
5. saver, line, less (time or life)
6. off, print, shake (hand)
7. cut, bread, stop (short)
8. dog, head, spot (hot)
9. town, load, hill (down)
10. beam, bathe, down (sun)
11. ball, cut, brush (hair)
12. rest, ball, step (foot)
13. worm, mark, end (book)
14. fall, shoe, bank (snow)

Talk About It

- Ask:**
- What was easy or a struggle about playing this game?
 - What's something you're struggling with in life right now?

Say: Today we're discovering that God blesses those who struggle. He walks with us through our struggles to give us comfort and help! Whether our struggles are physical or have more to do with our minds like these challenges, we can look for God's blessings.

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
- “Upside Down” handouts (1 per child)
- poster board
- marker
- paper
- pens

Easy Prep: Hang the poster board on the wall.

Look Upside Down

Say: In today’s Bible story, Jesus kind of flipped things upside down. He took a whole bunch of things that seemed sad or unimportant and called them blessed. It’s kind of like this.

Give each child an “Upside Down” handout, and have kids read the words. Be sure you hand kids the handouts in such a way that kids will naturally read the “negative” word first.

Say: Now let’s see what happens if we flip the paper upside down. Have kids rotate the paper so it’s upside down and read the words again. Sad should change to happy, hard to easy, bad to good, and frown to smile.

Say: It was easy enough to flip our papers upside down and read different words. We could see how something could say hard and easy, sad and happy. But how can we flip our attitudes upside down? How can we see struggles as blessings? Let’s dig in to that.

Deeper Bible: cont.

Dig Deeper

Say: Let's see what the Bible says about flipping our perspectives.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18 with this emphasis added: "Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."

Say: Circumstances are situations or things that are happening to us or around us. This verse says to be thankful in all circumstances, not just good ones.

Ask: • What are some circumstances that don't make you feel thankful?

Share your own example first.

Say: Let's look at an example of a guy in the Bible who was able to flip his perspective to see blessings in the midst of a struggle. Listen for what Paul said his struggle was.

Read the second part of 2 Corinthians 12:7.

Ask a willing child to write Paul's struggle (a thorn in my flesh) at the top of the poster board.

Say: Now, we don't know exactly what Paul's thorn was. It probably wasn't an actual thorn. It might've been a physical illness or something else. But it was a struggle. But let's see how he flipped his perspective.

Rotate the poster board so the struggle is upside down at the bottom. Then tell kids to listen for the blessings Paul found in his struggle as you **read 2 Corinthians 12:8-10.**

Have kids write on the poster board the blessings they noticed.

Say: Earlier we read totally different words depending on which way we held the paper. Similarly, you could hold our poster board this way and see a list of blessings. But if you flipped it, you'd see a struggle. The reality is, Paul did have a struggle. But he looked for a way his struggle could be a blessing at the same time, because God blesses those who struggle.

Now it's your turn to try it.

Give each child a piece of paper and a pen. At the top of the paper, kids can write something that feels hard or like a struggle. Then they'll rotate the paper so the struggle is upside down at the bottom and list related blessings in their lives right now.

If kids need help, you can use examples like this:

- Homework is hard. Blessings are a good education, a nice teacher, parents who help me with my homework, and a brain to think and reason.
- My friend and I are fighting. Blessings are years of good friendship, the hope of making peace, and other friends to hang out with.

Let kids work, sharing ideas with each other so their blessings lists take up quite a bit of the page. At the end, a few kids can show and read their papers to everyone.

Ask: • How did it help you to look for the good in the midst of your struggle?

Say: Jesus' way seems upside down. Most people wouldn't consider struggles a good thing. But God blesses those who struggle, and by shifting our perspective we can see things his way. We can become more joyful and thankful no matter what's going on in our lives.

Life Application:

Supplies

- paper
- markers
- tape
- pens

Easy Prep : Make 3 signs, each with one of these phrases: “Those who mourn,” “Those who work for peace,” and “Those who are persecuted for doing right.” Write these words as headers so kids can write names or situations on the signs, then hang them around the room.

Post and Pray

- Have kids write names or situations on the signs posted around the room, thinking of people they know or have heard about who fit into that category. For example, they might write the name of a friend whose grandmother died recently on “Those who mourn.” Or they might list a charitable organization on “Those who work for peace.” For the “Those who are persecuted for doing right”
- sign, encourage kids to think of people who have been treated unfairly.
- Gather kids near the “Those who mourn” sign, and pray: God, we pray for those who mourn, that they will be comforted. We pray for... Read the names on the sign.
- Gather kids near the “Those who work for peace” sign, and pray: God, we pray for those who work for peace, that they will be called your children. We pray for... Read the names on the sign.
- Gather kids near the “Those who are persecuted for doing right” sign, and pray: God, we pray for those who are being persecuted for doing right. We pray that the kingdom of heaven will be theirs. We pray for... Read the names on the sign.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

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.

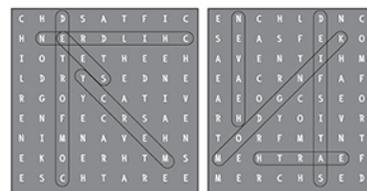
Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will find the words in the word searches. As kids work, offer genuine words of help and encouragement.

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.”