

Life of Christ

Jesus Talks about Attitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

Younger Verse

I can do everything with the help of Christ. Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

Older Verse

I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.
Philippians 4:13 (NLT)

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus taught His followers how he wanted them to live
Understand that we really do need God's help
Make sure WE are Jesus' followers

Welcome Time

Ask: Are you a follower of Jesus? Can people tell by the way you live that there is something different about you?

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week, we learned about four men who left everything to follow Jesus. **Ask: Do you remember the names of Jesus' new friends?** (Andrew, Peter, James & John) Jesus wanted his new friends to understand some things. So he took them to a mountainside and began to teach them. He started with the Beatitudes, a list of actions and attitudes that were important for them to follow. Jesus told them that they would be blessed by God if they had these qualities.

Ask: What does it mean to be blessed by God? When God blesses a person, He gives them extra strength, comfort, joy and peace. Jesus wanted his disciples to be blessed by God. And He wants US to be blessed by God, too. Let's look at these beatitudes and find out how we can be blessed by God.

Jesus said that God will bless people when they admit they need Him. **Ask: Is it hard to admit that we need help?** It is hard for some people to admit that they need God in their life. But to be a follower of Jesus, we must tell God we need Him to help us. We cannot save ourselves from sin. But God can. So we all need God!

The next blessing is for those who are sad. Jesus says that God will comfort those who are sad. He wants us to know that He cares about us and has a good plan for our life.

God will also bless those who are gentle. A gentle person is kind and thoughtful. They do not force people to do things their way. We must be gentle if we want to be like Jesus. This means thinking about others and their feelings before thinking about ourselves.

Next Jesus says God blesses people who look for what is good and right. We have to open our hearts to God and follow His ways. We must turn our eyes away from bad things (Psalm 119:37) and look for the good things that are pleasing to God.

Jesus says that people who forgive others will be blessed, and they will receive forgiveness. Sometimes we want to stay mad at people who have hurt us. But Jesus says HIS followers must always forgive. After all, He has forgiven us!

God will bless those who are pure in heart. This means that they always tell the truth and do not tell lies. We should try to be honest with God, others and ourselves. We should not try to cover up our mistakes, but confess them and make it right with God and others.

Jesus also says we will be blessed when we work for peace. A peacemaker is the opposite of a troublemaker. **Ask: Do you like to argue and fight?** Jesus says we need to stop fighting and encourage people to get along. We need to set an example of how Jesus' followers handle arguments.

The last blessing is for people who are mistreated for following Jesus. Jesus says that these people will receive God's Kingdom. If we believe in Jesus and we tell others about Him, some people may not like us. They may say mean things and try to hurt us. Jesus says we must love them, pray for them and not try to get them back. Then God will bless us.

Do these teachings sound hard to follow? They are! And guess what?!? We CANNOT follow them without God's help!

Like the first beatitude says, we have to admit we need God. We must confess that we have sinned and ask God to forgive us. Then we can invite Jesus to come into our heart. And THEN He can help us obey the things he taught us!

Review Questions

1. Where did Jesus take his disciples to teach them? (Answer: to a mountain-side)
2. What does it mean to be blessed by God? (Answer: He gives extra strength, comfort, joy and peace)
3. Do we need someone to help us follow these teachings? (Answer: yes) Who can help us? (Answer: God)

Prayer Time

If one or more of these teachings seems especially hard for you to follow, ask God to help you follow Him in that area.

Life Application

- Help the children think of real-life ways to follow the Beatitudes. Examples:
1. *Being gentle*—Let someone else go ahead of you in line.
 2. *Looking for what is good and right*—If something bad comes on the TV, turn it off or go to another room.
 3. *Working for peace*—When two friends are arguing/fighting, remind them of the good things each of them does.

Planning for Next Lesson
Be Salt and Light
Matthew 5:13-16

Preschool Lesson for Jesus Talks about Attitudes

Sit down together in a circle to share the story today.

One day, Jesus took His new friends to a mountainside. Wouldn't it be neat to climb up a mountain with Jesus? Let's pretend we are climbing up a mountain with Jesus. We cannot see Jesus right now, but we have His words written down in the Bible. That is how we know what He wants us to do.

Jesus had some important things to share with His friends. He told them how to be happy and have good attitudes. **Jesus told them that they would be happy if they kept learning more and more about God. He told them that God loved them very much and He cared about all their needs. Jesus told them to help others and always do the right thing.**

He told the people that doing these things would make them really happy.

God wants us to have good attitudes and be happy too! Let's ask God to help us love Him and love others. **Let's ask Him to help us always do the right thing.**

Sing this song to the tune of "This Old Man."

I love You. I love You.
I love you, God. Yes, I do.
I can pray and sing and talk to you.
I love You, God. Yes, I do.

Hands-on Activities for Jesus talks about attitudes

Bring balloons in three different colors. It may be best to blow them up beforehand and bring them in a closed trash bag. Tell the kids that the three balloon colors will mean three things from the story: one color will be for pure people, another color is for peaceful people, and the third color is for people who have good attitudes. Assign the kids to pick up certain color balloons. Place the balloons on the floor and let the kids pick up the certain color balloon. Talk about the three things: pure, peaceful and good attitudes. Share how Jesus wants us to have these attitudes. Challenge the kids to have these attitudes this week.

Make Balloon Bees. Bring long balloons used for making animals. Tie to make a bee. Write on the balloon with a permanent marker an attitude to work on this week. Another idea is to get little round balloons and draw stripes and features on the balloon to symbolize a bee. (Note: you may want to pump up the balloons before class and put in a big trash bag.)

Let the kids draw smiley faces on paper plates. Talk about how to have good attitudes and help others instead of hurting them. Share how God will help with all our needs. Write one of the be-attitudes on the plate.

Try this object lesson. Bring paper, pencils and wipes. Ask the kids to write the word "Attitude" on the paper and color it in with pencil very darkly. Now ask the kids to rub their finger over the letters. The dark lead will come off on their fingers. Share how bad attitudes rub off on others. Explain that Jesus wants us to have pure, clean attitudes that are good and helpful to others. Challenge the group to practice good attitudes this week.

Sing "Oh Be Careful Little Eyes What You See." Other verses are "Oh be careful little ears what you hear," "Oh be careful little feet where you go," "Oh be careful little mouth what you say." Another song you can sing is "If You're Happy and You Know It Clap Your Hands," stomp your feet, say amen, etc.