

Living the Beatitudes

Teaching Plan

Teaching Tips

Ahead of introducing *Living the Beatitudes* to the children, take time to familiarize yourself with the contents. Review this handout and how it correlates to the children's resource.

The resource is designed for children to interact with. Have the children follow along as you read aloud, and engage them in hands-on interaction with the resource, as suggested in the teaching steps below.

Background

Presented in the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) are key teachings of Jesus that describe how to live a life of true happiness—the happiness which God intends for us, and for which he has made us. Living this blessed, happy life of Beatitude contrasts with worldly pursuits of happiness, which can be fleeting and self-centered. But the Beatitudes are our Christian destiny; they fulfill and expand God's promises to Abraham by describing the rewards of God's kingdom for those who follow Christ.

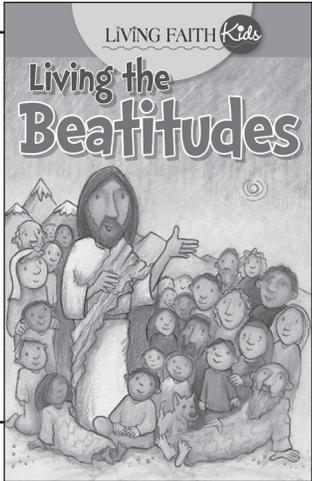
A starting point for teaching the Beatitudes is sharing the essential truth that God has created us to be happy. Help children understand that Jesus promises this happiness when we live the life of Beatitude he teaches.

Opening Prayer

Begin your lessons with prayer. Use the following or modify it each time you pray it with the group.

Good Jesus, you bring purpose and happiness to our lives. Teach us how to find the lasting joy you want for us by following you and your teachings every day. Amen.

Teaching Steps

Page(s)		
COVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct the children to look at the cover of their booklets. Ask, <i>What can you tell me about what's happening in the picture?</i> (Jesus is on a mountain teaching a crowd of people.) Explain that we will be learning about what he is teaching. • Discuss the art. Ask, <i>How do you think the people are feeling? Do they look happy or sad?</i> Guide children toward observing that the crowd is made up of people of all ages, because we are followers of Christ no matter how old we are. 	
2-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the header on page 2 aloud. Ask the children what they notice about the words. (BE is repeated.) Refer to the pronunciation key if children need help. • Read the first paragraph and invite the children to share what makes them happy. • Continue reading as the children follow along. Repeat any sentences about God's love. Ask, <i>What kind of life makes us truly happy?</i> (Living the blessed, beautiful life God wants for us) Say, <i>Are you wondering how we can know what that is? Let's keep reading to find out.</i> • Read "Did You Know?" together. Ask, <i>What other words can you think of that mean happy?</i> (Joyful, glad, jolly, etc.) Write them on a board or sheet of paper. Repeat the sentence: "When we live the Beatitudes life, we're _____ forever." Have the children fill in the blank as you point to each of these "happy" words. 	