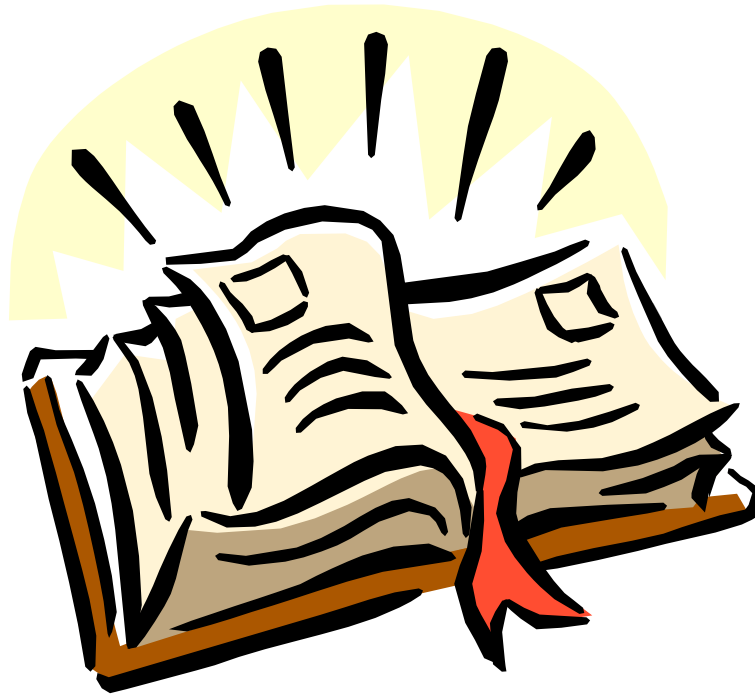


# Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF: \_\_\_\_\_

**LESSON TITLE: The Beatitudes**

**THEME: Real happiness is found in Jesus.**

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:1-12**



# Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids! Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions (five per week) for children and their families through which we hope to reinforce Sunday's lesson, provide ideas for the application of God's Word, and encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. Since the age of your child will affect how they respond to the content, we suggest you make them age appropriate by adding your own ideas.

In the lesson this week, we learned about **The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)**. Jesus taught great lessons in the Sermon on the Mount. Children are never too young to learn that this world has nothing substantial to offer. Happiness is found in a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. The Beatitudes show us some of the "blessings" promised to those who follow Jesus. Let's look a little closer this week at the Beatitudes and see what the Lord wants to teach us!

We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child.

# Meek - Not Sleek

**Text: Matthew 5:5** - "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

**Also read Psalm 37:11**

Imagine with me, if you will, a horse. Not just any horse, but a wild stallion. Let's make him a black stallion--a wild black stallion that was found out in the hills where he runs with several other wild horses. Now, let's say that there is a man who catches him and puts him in a horse corral out on a ranch. The wild stallion is running back and forth in the corral snorting, jumping, and flexing all of his muscles. The man goes out into the middle of the corral and begins to try to tame this wild horse. He puts a rope around him to lead him; then he puts a saddle on him to ride him. It takes a long time, and the horse even throws the man off of his back a few times, but finally the wild horse is broken.

Next, we see our black stallion standing back out on the hills, where he once ran with the wild horses. This time, he's with a rider on his back and a bridle bit in his mouth. He still has his bulging muscles and a look of great strength and power, but now it is under the control of the rider who leads him simply by pulling on the reins, left or right or forward or backward.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." The word meek is often associated with being weak. But, meekness is not weakness; meekness is strength under control, the control of Jesus. The wild stallion had no less strength when under the control of His master, but now his strength served his master's purpose. So when we allow Jesus to be in control, we become useful to our master. When our lives are yielded to Him, obeying Him, our lives will show forth the will and character of our master, as He leads and guides us. Though, there may be times we rebel against our master, we are happiest when we follow Him and see His plan and purpose fulfilled in our lives. God promises, "The meek will inherit the earth."

- How is the example of someone taming a wild horse like our lives being controlled by the Lord?
- How can you tell if Jesus is in control of your life?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Meek:** Power under control, our lives under God's control.

**Inherit:** Receiving something that is passed on from a parent to a child.

# The Big Gulp

**Text: Matthew 5:6** - "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."

**Also read Isaiah 55:1-3**

Have you ever been really, really thirsty—your mouth is so dry that it feels like all you have in your throat are a bunch of cotton balls? If you were that thirsty right now and you were out in the desert under the baking hot sun, what would you be thinking about? What would you be dreaming about? Yes...Water! Now let's say in the distance, up on a hill, you could see a table. And on the table was a huge glass of ice water. How hard would you try to make it to that table? How much would that big glass of water be worth to you? It would be worth everything to you, wouldn't it? You would run to it and grab it—"gulp, gulp, gulp!"

Jesus says to us in His Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." There exists a thirst in people's hearts. This thirst is a spiritual thirst. It can only be satisfied by Jesus. Sometimes, people try to satisfy this thirst by drinking down all kinds of other things besides Jesus. They drink from the wells of the world—money, attention from people, pleasure, false religions, and more. Yet, the thirst remains.

Jesus met a woman at a well in John 4. This woman had been trying to fill her thirst with relationships. Yet, she was now thirstier than ever. Jesus spoke to her about the water He could give her; He said if she would drink of that water, she would never thirst again. She accepted Jesus' offer to receive living water, and she went away as though her spirit had soaked in a big gulp of water. Only Jesus can give us the water of life that can satisfy our spiritual thirst. We were created for a rich, fulfilling love relationship with God. Has your spiritual thirst been quenched with the water of life? If not, it can be by asking Jesus to come into your heart to be both Savior and Lord.

- Can you remember a time when you were really, really thirsty.
- Is it possible to satisfy a thirst for God with something or someone other than God?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Hunger and Thirst:** Natural reactions in our bodies that tell us that we need food and water in order to stay alive. We hunger and thirst for righteousness because we need Jesus in order to live spiritually.

# "Peace Man!"

**Text: Matthew 5:9** - "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God."

**Also read Romans 12:18**

"Peace Man!" is a phrase that the hippies used to use in the 1960's and early 70's. It expressed a desire for peace, love, and freedom to spread to the entire world. It was a nice thought—peace and love in every home and in every country in the world! But, unfortunately, peace will never work apart from Jesus. Because of man's sinful nature, it is not possible for man to sustain a lasting, world peace. There will only be world peace when Jesus comes back to rule the world Himself.

Jesus speaks to us in Matthew chapter 5 and says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall become the sons of God." What a great thing, to spread peace! But, how is that possible? The peace that Jesus is speaking about is not a peace that is on the outside, but on the inside. A person can have peace in his heart in the middle of a world that is pretty crazy.

The Bible teaches us that in this world, there is will be tribulation and trials (John 16). But Jesus said, "My peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you..." The peace that Jesus gives is a peace with God—the wonderful result of a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. It is not on the outside, it is on the inside. It is not disrupted by the troubles, tribulations and trials that come our way from the outside. If the world did not give it to us, then the world cannot take it away from us. When we share Jesus with others, we are being peacemakers. There is a popular bumper sticker that says it well. It says, "No Jesus, no peace. Know Jesus, know peace."

- Will there be a time we will experience world peace?
- Where do you think it's most important to experience peace—the inside or outside?
- How can you be a peacemaker?

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Peacemaker:** One who brings peace or makes peace on behalf of others.

# Expecting Persecution

**Text: Matthew 5:10** - "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

**Also read Matthew 5:10-12**

There are many Christians in other countries, today, who must worship and study the Bible in secret. If they are found out, they and their families are in danger of being treated very poorly by those who work for the authorities of the country. They may be imprisoned and could even lose their lives. Why do you think that anyone would ever try to hurt or to kill someone even though that person had never done anything wrong? In fact, they only did what was good, right, and helpful to others. It sounds crazy doesn't it? But many of our brothers and sisters all over the world risk their safety and possibly their lives in order to follow Jesus and meet with others who believe.

Jesus tells us to expect to be persecuted because we are His followers. This means that there will be times when people do and say evil things against us just because we love Jesus and are sharing His truth. Jesus said, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you" (John 15:18). Jesus tells us this is to let us know that we should expect persecution. We do not expect to be treated wrongly when we have not done anything wrong, but Jesus says we will face persecution for righteousness sake—we will be treated wrongly when we are doing good things for God.

Are you expecting persecution? Are you willing to face persecution because you are telling others about the salvation of Jesus? Maybe someone has laughed at you or treated you meanly because you told them about Jesus. Jesus said you are blessed when you face persecution for His sake. He tells us to "rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven."

- Should we be surprised when we are persecuted for our faith in Jesus?
- Perhaps, as a family, you can pray for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted all over the world.

## Kid's Bible Dictionary



**Persecution:** Cruel and unfair treatment inflicted on one who believes in Jesus.

Day Five

# Poor, Poor, Pitiful Me

**Text: Matthew 5:3** - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

**Also read Psalm 82:3-4**

Have you ever seen pictures of poor, suffering people in different parts of the world—little babies that look so skinny and sickly? When we see them we think of them as the poorest of the poor and it makes us sad. Maybe your parents have told you some time that you had better eat all of the food on your plate because there are starving children in this world. It is true that we need to be careful about how we use the things that the Lord blesses us with and have a heart of compassion, helping those in need as God gives us opportunity.

When you are poor, you are considered to be in need. You need food or shelter or money. To be poor is to acknowledge that you do not have all that you need. Jesus said it was a blessing to be poor spiritually. What does it mean to be poor spiritually and how could that possibly be a blessing? The same situation that is true for the physically poor is also true for the spiritually poor. The physically poor are needy, so are the spiritually poor. The spiritually poor admit that they need God's help; they admit they need forgiveness for their sins. They know they need God's spiritual life and His spiritual food and shelter.

Jesus, speaking to the Pharisees, once said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick." Then He explained what that meant, saying, "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Jesus told the Pharisees that He was looking for those who knew they were needy and poor spiritually. But the Pharisees didn't think that they had any spiritual need. Sadly, the proud Pharisees thought they were okay as they were, so Jesus could not help them. The Bible tells us there is none who are righteous. God is looking for those of us who realize that we are poor and needy sinners. He can help those who come to Him aware of their need for forgiveness and a relationship with God. These, the spiritually poor, will inherit the kingdom of heaven.

- What does being poor in spirit mean?
- How can we be rich in spirit?

## Kid's Prayer Time



There are a lot of treasures in the Beatitudes. This week when we pray, let's ask the Lord to help us to live out everything that we have learned. What a blessing it is to follow Jesus.

# Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven...”

Third Grade and Above

“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven...”

**Matthew 5:12**