

1. Jesus Teaches (Matthew 5:1-9)

"If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet." (John 13:14)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Jesus Teaches
Laughter
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversation
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Beatitudes Matching
Cards
Peace Flower
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: CD player | DVD player | Projector or screen | Television | Chenille stems (green) | Craft glue | Crayons | Markers | Offering basket | Paper | Paper plates | Pencils | Scissors | Stapler | Tape

Gather: Bell | Carpet squares

Explore: Bell

Respond: Bell | Candle | Carpet squares | Crepe paper (red) | Multi-purpose lighter | Tissue paper (black, green)

Bless: Envelope

Before You Teach

Today's Bible story is from a sermon Jesus preached that has come to be known as the Beatitudes. In Matthew, the Beatitudes are the beginning of a series of Jesus' teachings known as the Sermon on the Mount. It's likely these teachings were gathered from many different teachings of Jesus. The Beatitudes are also found in similar, though not identical, form in the Gospel of Luke.

The Beatitudes provide instruction for how to live. Jesus spoke of what we need to do to be blessed, or happy, depending on which translation you read. The way Jesus teaches us to live is sometimes different than what the world says. This was true for Jesus' followers who heard the Beatitudes originally, and it is true for us today. God calls us to depend on and to obey God, and to be humble, merciful, pure of heart, and peacemakers, even when the world tries to get us to do otherwise.

In a world where fighting and war are often front-page news, Jesus' teaching to be peacemakers seems especially contrary to society's teaching. The references to peace are frequent in Jesus' teachings, so it is not surprising that peace is mentioned in the Beatitudes. Notice that Jesus' followers were not simply instructed to live in peace, but to be makers of peace. We are called to be advocates for peace, and to do what we can to make peace a reality, even when it seems the world prefers otherwise. When we live in peace, we follow Jesus' teaching.

Children may feel they have a limited ability to be peacemakers. Help them understand they can work for peace by modeling peace in their interactions with others. This may be as simple (or as difficult) as living peaceably with their sibling.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of an attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16-17 or pp. 18 & 15).

- Play “All Are Welcome” and “A Whole New Level of Love” (Annual Music CD).
 - Welcome and greet each child as they enter the room.
 - Indicate location of the offering basket.
 - Help children mark their attendance inside the building on the Community Attendance Chart (opt.).
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A—Jesus Teaches (Activity Sheet)

Before class: Obtain Activity Sheets (Session 1).

- Distribute “Happy”/”Climb the Mountain” (pp. 3-4).
 - Encourage the children to follow the journaling prompt and complete the activities.
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OR

B—Laughter (Game)

- Instruct the children to form a circle on the floor.

SAY: Today Jesus teaches us about being happy. Let’s see if we can spread some happiness.

- Choose a child to go first. He or she will begin by making the silliest face they can come up with. The person to their right must recreate the face without laughing. If he or she does not laugh, they may make a new face. Continue in this pattern. If a person laughs, they are out.
 - Play the game as long as time allows.
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Transition to Explore

Before class: Obtain bell and carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to acknowledge that it is time to transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares (or equivalent items), then sit in a circle on the floor.

TIP: Use Transitions as tools to help children easily move from one activity to the next.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversation

- Ask a few wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- What made you laugh this week?
 - How did you help someone this week?
 - What are you grateful for?
 - Was there a difficult part of your week, and what made it better?
 - Where did you see God this week?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

Before class: Prepare television and DVD player.

- Read the Bible story (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible—Matthew 5:1-9*).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure DVD Session 1.

ASK: How can you be a peacemaker?

Interact with the Bible Story

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets (Session 1).

- Distribute the Bible Story Sheets and draw attention to Bible Story Retelling (p. 1).
 - Assign the role of Reader 1. Direct the children to read for “All,” then present “Jesus Teaches.”
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 10 & 23). Review Unit 1 sign language (Leader Guide—p. 94).

- Recite the Bible verse: “If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other’s feet” (John 13:14).
 - Invite the children to say and sign the Bible verse with you.
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Transition to Respond

Before class: Obtain bell.

- Ring the bell, then invite the children to put away their carpet squares.

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RESPOND

A—Beatitudes Matching Cards (Game)

Before class: Photocopy and cut out “Beatitudes Matching Cards” (Leader Guide—p. 12).

- Shuffle the cards and place facedown on the floor or table. Gather the children around the cards.
- Allow a child to turn over one card, then a second card. If the two phrases go together, they make a match. If there is no match, turn the cards back over and let another child take a turn.
- Let the children use the Bible for help. Play the game as long as time allows.

OR

B—Peace Flower (Art)

Before class: Obtain plates, tissue, and crepe paper. Cut crepe-paper lengths. Make an example.

SAY: In today’s Bible story, Jesus taught that we should be peacemakers and care for others. The poppy flower is a symbol of peace. Let’s make our own poppies to remember our Bible story.

- Direct the children to spread craft glue over paper plates. Then direct them to attach red crepe paper to the plate in a spiral pattern, starting at the outer edge, working toward the center. Show them how to attach the crepe paper only by one edge so that the paper fluffs out.
- Show the children how to roll a small strip of black tissue, and glue it at the center of the red paper. Let them repeat that with a smaller piece of green tissue. Glue it at the center of the black tissue.
- Let the children form flower stems using the chenille stems, and staple it underneath the red crepe paper at the paper’s bottom edge.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Obtain Map 7: Deep Blue Shores (Class Kit—p. 8) and Figures/Pieces: Deep Blue Shores Map 7 (Class Kit—p. 25). Cut out figures. Display Poster: Meet Our Neighbors (Class Kit—p. 3).

- Display the Deep Blue Shores Map 7 on the floor or table. While the children interact with the map and figures, talk about the animals of Deep Blue Shores.

SAY: Today we will meet Cinnamon. Cinnamon is Kat’s cat.

ASK: Do you remember the other animals in Deep Blue Shores? Do you have pets or animals at home? What are their names?

Transition to Bless

Before class: Obtain bell, candle, multipurpose lighter (or battery-operated candle), carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to signal transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares, then sit in a circle on the floor.
- Light a candle to symbolize that this is a special time together (*optional*).

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Display Poster: Lent (Class Kit—p. 31). Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 10 & 23) where it is easily accessible for children. Obtain Poster Pieces: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—p. 27). Cut out poster pieces and store in an envelope. Store remaining Class Kit item.

- Gather the children around the Bible-verse poster.
- Display the poster pieces.
- Invite a child to attach to the poster the “If I, your Lord and teacher,” poster piece.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for giving us the message of Jesus. Amen.

Praising

Before class: Obtain CD player and Deep Blue Song Sheets (new, located in Bible Story Sheets).

- Distribute the song sheets for “A Whole New Level of Love” (Annual Music CD).
 - Sing the song “A Whole New Level of Love” (Annual Music CD).
 - Collect the song sheets and store until the next session.
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Blessing

SAY: Many churches “Pass the Peace” during worship. Let’s “Pass the Peace” to one another.

- Invite the children to stand, shake hands with one another, and say, “Peace be with you.”
- Do this until everyone has received a peace blessing.

TIP: Some children may prefer not to shake hands. They simply can pass the blessing with their words.

At Home with God

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets leaflets.

ASK: What is one thing that you learned today? Can you share with your family what you learned?

- Send home with each child Bible Story Sheets—Session 1 leaflet.

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Beatitudes Matching Cards

Happy are people who are hopeless,	because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
Happy are people who grieve,	because they will be made glad.
Happy are people who are humble,	because they will inherit the earth.
Happy are people who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness,	because they will be fed until they are full.
Happy are people who show mercy,	because they will receive mercy.
Happy are people who have pure hearts,	because they will see God.
Happy are people who make peace,	because they will be called God's children.