

The Beatitudes Lesson: Grades 6-8

Objective: Students will learn that the Beatitudes were His spoken instructions for how to become happy through holiness. They are His message of mercy and compassion through suffering. Students will be able to define the word “beatitude” and recognize all the conditions and outcomes.

Pre-Video Discussion: You’ve probably heard about the Beatitudes either from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount or in religion classes. The word “beatitude” comes from the Latin “beatitudo” which means “happiness.” They show us how we can be holy and happy. The Beatitudes have both a condition and an outcome, which means there is some kind of action followed by a reward. The Beatitudes teach us how to live and how we are rewarded - the ultimate reward being heaven.

Watch “The Beatitudes: Grade 6-8” on Catholic Brain

Video Lesson Content:

The Beatitudes are part of the teaching of Jesus called “The Sermon on the Mount.” It can be found in chapter five of Matthew’s gospel. Through the Beatitudes, Jesus was telling the people about the Kingdom of God. These teachings showed the people and us how we are to live on earth and how we will be rewarded in heaven.

One day a great crowd followed Jesus up a mountain. Jesus sat down and began to preach to the people. During this sermon, Jesus gave us the Beatitudes. The Jewish rabbis at this time would teach sitting down surrounded by their disciples. So when Jesus sat down, He was showing them that He was acting as their teacher. His disciples, even women and children who were normally not welcomed during this time, were allowed to sit and listen to Jesus teach.

The word “beatitude” comes from the Latin word “beatitudo” which means “happiness.”

Jesus gave us the Beatitudes as a fulfillment of the Ten Commandments, but He delivered them with both a condition and an outcome. They are His instructions for happiness based on the message of mercy. The Beatitudes also explain the good that can come from suffering.

This is what Jesus taught the people...

- 1) “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.” The poor in spirit are those who do not desire power or possessions.



- 2) "Blessed are those who mourn: for they will be comforted." When we suffer, God see our suffering. When we turn to God, He is always ready to offering us comfort and strength.
- 3) "Blessed are the meek: for they will inherit the earth." Being meek means we are gentle and do not turn to violence, anger, or jealousy.
- 4) "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they will be filled." Righteousness is doing God's will which is doing what is just and right.
- 5) "Blessed are the merciful: for they will be shown mercy." Mercy is showing others compassion and forgiving them.
- 6) "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they will see God." Only God knows what is in our hearts and we need to have a sincere heart that seeks God and allows Him into it.
- 7) "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they will be called children of God." When we work together with other we are promoting peace.
- 8) "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." When we choose good, many times we will find ourselves being on the outside of the crowd. Jesus asked us not to be afraid for we will be blessed.
- 9) "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Jesus was treated harshly and knew exactly how it felt to be persecuted. As a follower of Jesus, we too will have a hard road, but like Him our reward will be heaven.

These teachings of Jesus were very difficult for the people because they went against the thinking of the time. Even in our own day, it can be very difficult to live these Beatitudes. The Beatitudes remind us that God rewards our suffering when we offer it up in union with His cross. These are hopeful points of encouragement when we are struggling and don't know why. These Beatitudes were Jesus' spoken instructions for how to become happy through holiness.

Activity:

Do the Beatitudes: Grade 6-8 Printable Page - Matching the condition with the outcome.

The Beatitudes: Grade 6-8

Matching: Match the Beatitudes' condition with each outcome:

Condition	Outcome
1) Those who mourn _____	a) Theirs is the kingdom of Heaven
2) The peacemakers _____	b) They will be shown mercy
3) Those who are persecuted _____	c) They will see God
4) The merciful _____	d) They will inherit the earth
5) Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness _____	e) They will be filled
6) The poor in spirit _____	f) They will be comforted
7) The pure of heart _____	g) They will be called children of God
8) The meek _____	h) Theirs is the kingdom of Heaven

(Answers: 1-f; 2-g; 3-a or h; 4-b; 5-e; 6-a or h; 7-c; 8-d)

