



## Circle Up

### SHARE

*Use this time to gather together and get everyone talking.*

- Share something that could be very hard to do.
- Encourage each family member to take a turn answering.

### SAY

Today we're beginning a new study on The Beatitudes. We'll find out God blesses those who struggle. Draw a gift box onto a sticky note. This gift box can help us think of blessings or good things God gives us. Hand each person a sticky note and have them draw a gift box. Today, we'll read about a time Jesus sat on a hill and taught a group of people. One thing he taught the people was that God blesses those who struggle. Add your "blessing" gift boxes to the green bulletin board hill. Say: **This will remind us that even when we have hard times, God blesses us.**

Open your Bibles and say: **Learning either of those things would be a struggle in some ways, but that's okay, because God blesses those who struggle.** Today we'll hear Jesus tell about some ways God blesses struggling people.

## Watch

Watch today's teaching video [here](#).

### ASK

Your Elementary Schooler:

- \* What's the hardest thing about Fortune's life?
- \* What were good things about Fortune's life?
- \* Share some struggles you've faced. How did you see God's blessings come out of those times?

### ASK

Your Preschooler:

- \* How is Fortune's life different from yours?
- \* Have you done something that was hard?
- \* What are some good things God has given or blessed you with?

# Have Fun Together

## DISCOVER

Use these activities to have fun together while learning about God.

**Materials Needed:** Bible, Small gift bags (1 per person), tissue paper, "Beatitude Blessings" handouts, heart stickers, "Beatitude Insights" handouts

**Easy Prep:** Print the "Beatitude Blessings" handouts. Cut apart the pieces, keeping the verses and corresponding pictures together. Place each verse and its corresponding picture in a gift bag with tissue paper. Set each set of gift bags together.

### Open Blessings

Say: Today we'll find out **God blesses those who struggle**. Point to the gift bags. **Look at all the gifts we have. These are all from Jesus, and each of you will get to open a gift.** Take turns choosing and opening a gift. Use the "Beatitude Insights" handout to describe the blessings as kids open them. Build the excitement and wonder for each gift before it's opened. The following points contain the exact content from the "Beatitude Insights" handout:

- **Crown: God welcomes people into his royal family. Wow -- that's a blessing!** Pass around the crown picture. **Jesus says God loves to welcome people who are poor or humble. Being humble means you're not a show-off. How could not being a show-off be a blessing?** From the handout, read verses 3 and 5. **Jesus says the poor and humble know they need God, and God blesses those who struggle. I'm so glad God welcomes the poor and humble into his kingdom.**
- **Crying person being hugged: God is with us when we're sad. What a blessing!** Pass around the picture. **Jesus says God loves to be with sad people. How could being very sad be a good thing?** Read aloud verse 4. **Jesus says when we're sad, God's with us to help us feel better. Having God with us is a blessing!**
- **Heaven: God wants people to live with him in heaven!** Pass around the image of heaven. **Jesus says God loves to welcome people who want to do what God says is good. Why is it good to make those kinds of choices?** Read aloud verses 6, 8, and 10. **God gives people who love good choices everything they need in heaven. It's not easy to make good choices, but God blesses those who struggle to do what's right.**
- **Person helping someone up: God wants to forgive us when we do wrong things. He wants to help us try again.** Pass around the image. **Jesus says God wants us to forgive others when they mess up, too-- even if they don't deserve it. Why is forgiving someone a blessing?** Read aloud verse 7. **Jesus says forgiveness is a wonderful thing. He wants us to forgive, and God blesses those who do.**
- **Children holding hands: God wants us to be part of his family. Being God's children is an amazing blessing!** Pass around the image. **Jesus says people who are peaceful don't start fights. Why is it a blessing to be a peaceful person?** Read aloud verse 9. **Jesus says people who are peaceful are God's children. Being God's children is definitely a blessing!**

### Receive a Heart

Say: Sometimes we think we're blessed only when we're very happy and have everything we want. But Jesus says people who are sad or poor or not treated well are blessed because God is with them. **God blesses those who struggle**, so when we feel sad or hurt, we can remember that **God blesses us and is taking care of us, even when everything isn't going our way.** Give each child a heart sticker to stick on themselves. Say: **Let's thank God for always being with us whether we're happy or struggling. We're always blessed by God being with us!**

## PRAY

Dear God, Thank you for taking care of us even when we struggle. Thank you for being with us wherever we go. In Jesus' name, Amen!