



Week of Mar 12 - a

Scripture: Mt 5:1-6

Main Idea: Jesus teaches the crowd here in what's called the "sermon on the mount." The sermon begins with 9 beatitudes. The first 4 deal with our status on earth and blessings from God. There are many who, in an earthly sense, struggle (poor in spirit, mourn, meek, hunger & thirst) but they are blessed by God in various ways, namely by being a part of the kingdom (the church). It may look like the wicked are the ones who prosper (Ps 73:12), but in reality, it is those faithful to God, who in spite of their hardships are the ones truly blessed by God.

Questions

Preschool: While Jesus is preaching, does he promise that we won't ever be hungry or sick if we follow him? Jesus tells us sometimes we will get sad (mourn). Do you ever get sad? If we pray and ask God, will he help us feel better when we are sad?

Grade school: The focus of the Sermon on the Mount was how to live a life pleasing to God and to have a personal relationship with God. To please God – we have to do the things that make him happy. The Beatitudes portion of the Sermon on the Mount deals with blessings for certain ways of living.

Teen: How does our prosperity differ from the world's idea of wealth? Could others be influenced when they see you trusting God (and being blessed) during hardships?

Adult: As we progress through our lives, we can often look back and see when we've been in the trials described by these beatitudes. When we're going through them, do we see the blessings which come alongside the hard times? Even looking back in hindsight, do we see what God had provided or the growth in our character through going through the testing? Why is it so hard to view hardships as blessings?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY:

For God to help us be humble and have peace during our earthly trials, knowing he will bless us in this life and in the eternal life to come.

March Memory Verse:

Psalm 9:1 (ESV)

**I will give thanks to the LORD
with my whole heart; I will
recount all of your wonderful
deeds.**



Week of Mar 12 - b

Scripture: Mt 5:7-9

Main Idea: The beatitudes 5 through 7 deal with people’s relationships with others. Those who are faithful to God by showing people mercy, compassion, and being peacemakers will be rewarded by God. Treating others (even our enemies) as Jesus did is not always easy, but God says we will be glad we did, because of the blessings we will receive in the end.

Questions

Preschool: Does Jesus want us to forgive and be kind to others? Do you know what it means to be kind?

Grade school: People who are kind and forgiving to others will have kindness and forgiveness shown to them. People who change actions on the outside to match how their heart is changing on the inside will see God. If we try to make things peaceful and good for others, we will be children of God.

Teen: What does being merciful, pure in heart, and a peacemaker mean to you? How difficult are these to follow? What are some of the outcomes of following these commands? They must be important to follow since the rewards are receiving mercy, seeing God, and being called a child of God.

Adult: How often do we really think about mercy? When was the last time you heard the word mercy used outside a church building? Mercy is often seen as having compassion upon someone less fortunate than you are. Let's think about another definition, that of withholding punishment due. God not only withheld punishment we deserved, but he gave the punishment to Christ, in our stead. How should Christians respond daily to this show of love?

Is there someone in your life who is a good peacemaker? Someone you want to be there if tempers flare? What qualities do they show when they smooth the waters of temper? Do you stay calm when a situation gets tense? If so, what advice would you give to someone-- how do you do it?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY:

For God to lead us and help us to be merciful, have a pure heart, and be peacemakers.

March Memory Verse:

Psalm 9:1 (ESV)

**I will give thanks to the LORD
with my whole heart; I will
recount all of your wonderful
deeds.**