

Family Connections

February 6-March 6



The Beatitudes

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Unit 5: February 6 - March 6

For the beginning this unit, our lessons will focus on “The Beatitudes” and the Sermon on the Mount. Then we’ll talk about Ash Wednesday and Lent.

February 6 - 13: The Beatitudes - “Rejoice and be glad”

- Jesus wanted to share some Good News with his followers so he talked to them about “the Beatitudes.” The Beatitudes teach us how we should treat each other. We will talk about ways of being peaceful, forgiving, kind, and loving.
- Do you ever feel persecuted because you believe in God? While we might not feel persecuted for our beliefs, people may get angry when we are brave enough to do the right thing. Maybe a group of people decides to break a rule but you chose not to join them. People can get very angry when others don't join them in doing something wrong. Why do you think that happens? (It shows that they are making bad choices, they feel guilty, they don't feel good about themselves, etc.)
- Jesus is telling us that we should not follow them or let them influence us. He is telling us that we will be rewarded for standing up for the truth.
- What does Jesus say to people who are poor in spirit, mournful, meek, persecuted, etc.? “Rejoice and be glad!!!” Really? Why should we rejoice? Because it is often during those times that we remember to look for God, and -guess what? We find God! God is always with us – even when it feels like everyone else is against us. And listen to the list of rewards! Not only are we comforted by God’s presence but we will receive mercy, inherit the earth and the kingdom of heaven, see God, and be called ‘children of God!’”

February 20: The Golden Rule - Do Unto Others

- Children in Preschool through Grade 2 will be reading a book called, “Do Unto Others” and they will be playing games that will ask them to sort cards into piles of things that they would and would not want others to do to them.
- Jesus tells us to do good to those who hate us, pray for those who treat us unfairly, and love our enemies. What do you think will happen if we follow these rules? Jesus knew that our hearts would change toward our enemies - and maybe their hearts would change too!

March 6: Ash Wednesday

- Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lent season.
- We “bury ALLELUIAs” because it’s an Easter word. We will say “Alleluia” again once Jesus has risen!
- Sometimes we do not show love to God and to others. Maybe we are selfish or mean to someone. When that happens, it is like turning away from God. We may get our way, but it doesn’t feel good because we have made someone else sad.
- Talk to your child about forgiveness. It is good to know that God loves us all and is patient with us. But God is always waiting for us to come back. God will always forgive us when we are sorry.
- How can we show that we are sorry for something mean that we have done? (Talk about actions that would be appropriate for the examples they gave earlier: sharing, helping someone, saying they are sorry, giving a hug, playing with someone, etc.)
- Sometimes, we go to church and have ashes put on our forehead. This shows that we are sorry for the bad things we have done, to remind us to ask God to help us live in a better way.