



The Beatitudes

Engage: Page 39

- ▶ With your child discuss why people use recipes. **Say:** *In the Bible, Jesus has given us recipes for living a happy life. An example of this is the new commandment.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and the text in the blue box. Discuss your child's responses. Point out the picture. **Ask:** *Why is it important to help others? (By helping them, we follow Jesus' example.)* **Say:** *In this session we will learn another recipe for happiness that Jesus has given us—the Beatitudes.*
- ▶ Ask your child to write his or her own recipe for living a happy life that includes attitudes and behaviors that will help build up the Kingdom of God. Pray aloud the prayer together.

Explore: Pages 40–41

- ▶ Take turns completing this sentence with your child: *We can build up the Kingdom of God by .* (following God's plan for us, practicing the virtues)
- ▶ Read aloud the heading and first paragraph on page 40. **Say:** *Living the Beatitudes can lead to a happy life.* Read aloud the Scripture passage, pausing after each Beatitude to explain its meaning. **Ask:** *Do you think it will be easy to live out the Beatitudes? Why or why not?*
- ▶ Read aloud Living the Beatitudes on page 41. Complete the activity together.
- ▶ Read aloud the Link to Liturgy feature. **Say:** *During the Sign of Peace, we commit ourselves to being peacemakers and to building up the Kingdom of God. We express our willingness and desire to live in peace with one another.*

Art Exploration: Page 235

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture of a man removing a thorn from a lion's paw.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the man is doing to help the lion.
- ▶ **Say:** *We are called to be Jesus' followers and to build up God's kingdom by making good choices.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 235. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud the title and the first three paragraphs. **Ask:** *What is Saint Jerome an example of?* (someone who chose to practice the Beatitudes)



- ▶ Read aloud Practice the Beatitudes. Have your child complete the activity. Discuss how Jerome showed mercy to the lion.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *We have clean hearts when we choose to worship God and to follow his plan for us.*
- ▶ Together retell the story of Jerome and the lion. Begin with this story starter: *Long ago there lived a man named Jerome.* As you add sentences, pantomime actions that illustrate what you are saying. After the story is complete, **say:** *We can practice the Beatitudes by following Saint Jerome's example.*

Reflect: Pages 42–43

- ▶ Together look at page 42. **Ask:** *What can you tell about the person in the picture?* (Animals are drawn to him, he appears to be a peaceful person.)
- ▶ Read aloud the first paragraph and pray together the Peace Prayer of Saint Francis. Give your child time to ask God to help him or her be a peacemaker. Close the prayer by reading aloud the last paragraph and offering a sign of peace to your child.
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Serving the Needs of Others on page 43. **Say:** *As you think about what you might draw, let's think about what Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Jerome did to live out the Beatitudes. Then let's think of one way God is calling you to live out the Beatitudes in your life.* Discuss your child's ideas and then invite your child to discuss the picture when it is finished.

Respond: Page 44

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Review the Words I Learned in this session. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can speak up for people who are being treated unfairly.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.