

The Beatitudes

1. Which of the beatitudes do you find the most interesting? Why is that? Which beatitude do you think God is asking you to live more fully? Strategize some ways to do this.
2. Discuss the meaning of the words “blessed” and “beatitude”. What does it mean to be blessed? What are the ways the word is used today? Give examples of what these words mean (i.e. “Oh you are so blessed...” “What a blessing,” “#Blessed,” “Blessed Laura Vicuna, pray for us.”).
3. What does it mean to be in a state of blessedness and union with God? Can you give examples of what this looks like?
4. The Beatitudes reflect a new focus. They are less about earthly territory and more about the kingdom of heaven. Re-read Matthew 5:3-12. How do these make you shift your focus from earth to heaven? What does it mean to call the Beatitudes more about “a refined sense of humility and love”? What is “refined” about them?

Activity for Home

Read Matthew 5:3-12 and pick one of the Beatitudes to act out. Create a short skit showing the meaning of this Beatitude and how it challenges us to see God, others and ourselves in a supernatural light. For example, your students can read The Good Samaritan parable and act it out as a great illustration for the Beatitude on “Blessed are the merciful”. Then after performing the skit, discuss how living this Beatitude could lead someone to become closer to God.

Activity for the Classroom

Re-read Matthew 5:3-12 and Luke 6:20-26. Make a visual for each of the Beatitudes. Divide your class into groups and assign a beatitude to each group. Have them make a drawing to illustrate what each beatitude looks like. Challenge them to use their imaginations to apply what Jesus said to their own lives and experience.

Further Resources

1. Into the Deep Catechetical Unit Study on the Beatitudes
<https://intothedeep.co/products/the-beatitudes-unit-study?variant=49025514340650>
2. Catechism in a Year - Beatitudes - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sZgZGjZzUs>
3. Article on the Beatitudes - <https://catholiceducation.org/en/culture/the-beatitudes-a-concise-summary.html>
4. The Beatitudes for Families <https://www.teachingcatholickids.com/the-beatitudes-for-families/>