

The Beatitudes Activity

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Jesus is our teacher. He has taught so many lessons. Like we said in Adoration, one of the lessons Jesus taught His followers and us is The Beatitudes. Jesus taught this lesson while He was on a mountain, so sometimes you hear it called "The Sermon on the Mount." When you learn a lesson at school, your teacher is teaching you an important skill like math. When Jesus taught the lesson on The Beatitudes, He was teaching us a very, very important skill: the way to follow Him in our lives. Jesus was teaching us the **path** that leads to Heaven. The Beatitudes are a guide when we have choices to make in how we live. Jesus shows us the way to live in unity with Him. He teaches us to trust Him in everything we do.

Tell the children that they will always have to make choices in life and the Beatitudes can help them make choices that will please God to keep them on the **path** to Him. Ask the children the following simple questions and discuss how their choices can please God.

1. Should you take a candy bar from the store because your friend tells you to or should you say, "No that isn't right," even if your friend says, "You're just scared?"
2. Should you tell somebody to stop being a baby because they are crying or ask them why they are sad and try to help them feel better with a kind word?
3. Should you stay mad at your best friend for two days when she hurts your feelings or forgive her?
4. Should you go up at Communion time to receive Jesus / a blessing or skip Mass?

5. Should you tell Jesus you love Him every day or ignore Jesus until you need something?

8. Should you say grace before meals and say prayers of thanksgiving to God or always want and beg for new things?

On the activity page, have the children color the **path** that takes them to Heaven. Have them draw several pictures that show how they can stay close to God and live in unity with Jesus. The above discussion questions should give the children ideas.

In case you want/need more, below is the Gospel reading with some extra explanation underneath.

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(Poor in Spirit means: placing all our trust in God. Knowing that everything comes from God, not from ourselves)

Blessed are they who mourn; for they will be comforted.

(When we mourn or are sad, we learn how other sad people feel and can understand and love more.)

Blessed are the meek; for they will inherit the land.

(Meek means that we obey God)

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness; for they will be satisfied.

(This means that we want to the right thing - God's will with all our heart.)

Blessed are the merciful; for they will be shown mercy.

(Merciful means that we forgive people easily)

Blessed are the clean of heart; for they will see God.

(Clean of heart means "that we are thankful for God's gifts, and that we recognize that living according to God's word is more important than anything else."¹)

Blessed are the peacemakers; for they will be called children of God.

(Peacemakers are those who are with God in how they live)

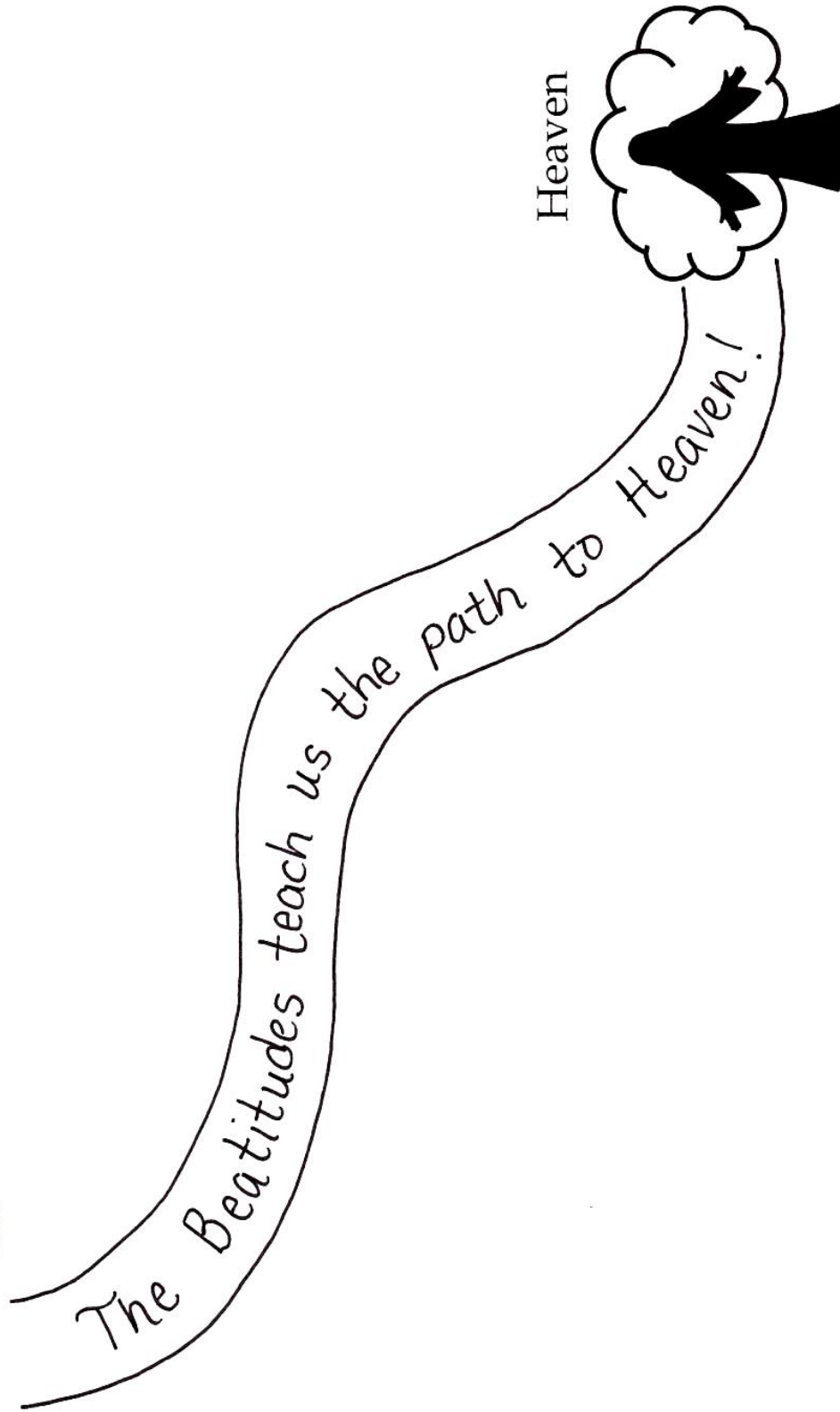
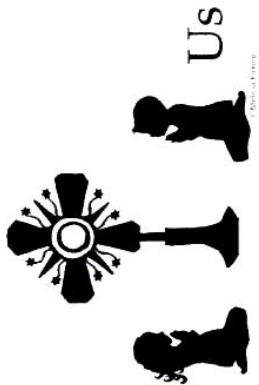
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹ The Beatitudes for Children, Rosemaire Gortler & Donna Piscitelli, 2009, Our Sunday Visitor. All rights reserved. p. 47

(Means that we make choices that God would be happy with even if our friends are not.)

Matthew 5:1-10

♡ The Beatitudes ♡



Draw several pictures along the path that show how you can stay close to God and live in unity with Jesus.