

The Beatitudes

Preparation for the Session

Turn to Page 129, the Family + Faith page.

In this chapter you will cover the following objectives:

- Describe how the Beatitudes guide us to show mercy and be a blessing to others
- Understand that *beatitude* means “blessing” or “happiness.” God put the desire for happiness inside each of us
- Define the Beatitudes as teachings of Jesus that show the way to happiness and tell how to live in God’s Kingdom now and always
- Connect that because God first blessed us, everyone can be a blessing to others

Read the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

Parents, Consider This: *God has been blessing the world from the beginning. Because you and those in your family are baptized Christians, blessing is your work, too. Your actions, like those of Christ, can be a source of blessing to others. When you ask God’s blessing on a meal or on another person, you acknowledge that it is God who gives all gifts and makes them holy. In the many ways your family lives this understanding, that all of our gifts come from God, your family is living as followers of Christ.*

Read these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the lesson.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



Let’s Sing: These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Lead Me, Lord
- Love, Jesus, Love

INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

Turn to Page 121, Insert Page Head

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



Let Us Pray Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

Explain that not only are we blessed, but we can be a blessing to others.

Say: The Church teaches us that “every baptized person is called to be a ‘blessing’” (CCC 1669). Jesus reminds us that blessing comes from hearing and following God’s Word.



Guide your child through the Preparing for God's Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God's Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Invite your child to respond and also share what you heard.

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

Say: The woman in the crowd was saying that Mary was blessed because she was the Mother of God. Jesus teaches us that we are all blessed when we listen to God's Word and follow it.

Invite your child to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about healing.

DISCOVER: Learning God's Truth

Turn to Page 122,
Jesus Brings God's Blessing

Read aloud the opening question and paragraph.

Tell your child that God blesses those who care for others.

Point out the word **mercy** and its definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.



Proclaim the Scripture.

Turn to Page 123,
The Beatitudes

Have your child silently read the first two paragraphs.

Explain that when we follow the Beatitudes, we are a blessing to others. We work with God as he builds his Kingdom.

Point out the highlighted words **Beatitudes** and **eternal life** and read their definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box (page 122).

Review the Beatitudes chart.



Do the gold-star activity.

Turn to Page 124,
Be a Blessing

Summarize the introductory paragraph and introduce the biography.

Tell your child that Pope John XXIII was known for his simple ways and good nature. He wrote encyclicals that promoted social justice and peace. He convened the Second Vatican Council, although he did not live to see its completion. He was beatified by Blessed Pope John Paul II in 2000.

Turn to Page 125,
Sharing Blessings

Have your child silently read the biography of Blessed Pope John XXIII.

Have your child read the text.

Read aloud the definition of the word **peace** in the Catholic Faith Words box.

Activity

Have your child complete the Connect Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *When you bring peace to another person, you are doing the work of blessing that will bring you true happiness. We live in ways that bring peace to others when we focus more on understanding others than judging them. Think of someone your family might find irritating or difficult to love. Discuss how God might see this person with the eyes of compassion, mercy, and love. Might your family grow in understanding for this person? Peace grows by living peacefully, one relationship at a time.*

LIVE: Living Our Faith

Turn to Page 126,
Our Catholic Life

Read aloud the opening question and the two paragraphs.



Do the gold-star activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Everyone faces events that are beyond our control, which can breed uncertainty and even anxiety. In prayer we can share our problems and worries with God. The Holy Spirit can impart a sense of peace and help us deal with life's challenges and concerns. Encourage your family to pray, in their own words, about the worries they have as a way to put their trust in God and to allow God's Holy Spirit to fill their heart with peace.*

Turn to Page 127,
People of Faith

Read the paragraph about Saint Yi Sung-hun.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about how God blesses you and how you can share those blessings with others.

Activity

Have your child complete the Live Your Faith activity.

Parents, Consider This: *Jesus taught the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount. In light of the Christian message, the Beatitudes reframe the blessings promised to the Israelites. The Beatitudes reflect the way that Jesus lived his life. Jesus' actions brought to the world the peace, love, and justice that God desires. How do you, as a family, live the Beatitudes? Consider focusing, as a family, on living the actions and attitudes exemplified in the Beatitudes.*

Turn to Page 129,
Family + Faith Page and
conclude with the Let's Pray
prayer on this page.

Parents, Consider This: *It's important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321), during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of aliveinchrist.osv.com.