

Lesson Plan, Grade 4 - Chapter 7

November 05 2025

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Preparation

Lesson Plan

File: G4_C7_LP.pdf

Activity Master

File: G4_C7_AM.pdf

Chapter Test

File: G4_C7_Test.pdf

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- The Beatitudes guide us to show mercy and be a blessing to others. (CCC, 2444)
- The word *beatitude* means “blessing” or “happiness.” God put the desire for happiness inside each of us. (CCC, 1718)
- The Beatitudes are teachings of Jesus that show the way to true happiness and tell how to live in God’s Kingdom now and always. (CCC ,1716)
- God wants all of us to have eternal life, to live forever with him and all who die in his friendship. (CCC, 1720-1721)

Catechist Background

“Jesus replied, ‘Rather, blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.’”—Luke 11:28

Reflect What does it mean to be blessed?

God has been blessing the world from the beginning. After the Fall, God took a world that was headed toward death and turned it back toward life. He brought the chosen people out of slavery, bestowed on them the gift of the Law, spoke through the prophets, and gave them his only Son, Jesus.

Because you are a baptized Catholic, blessing is your work, too. Your actions, like those of Christ, can be a source of blessing for 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. When you bring God’s peace to another person, you are doing the work of blessing that will bring you true happiness.

Jesus taught the Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount. In the 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. This reign of God will reach its fullness at the end of time.

Reflect What can you do today to be a blessing for others?

Catechist’s Prayer

God of Peace, I thank you for the ways that your Spirit sustains me. Help me live the Beatitudes and teach students by my example. Amen.

Invite

Catechist Edition Instruction

Invite

Let Us Pray

Invite the children to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Choose a leader and someone to read the Psalm. Prompt the children's response.

Have the children move out of the prayer space and back to their seats.

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

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.

Scripture

Guide the children through the process of Scripture reflection.

- Invite them to close their eyes, be still and open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them in this passage.
- Proclaim the Scripture.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?
- Invite volunteers to share.

What Do You Wonder?

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 the children to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about what it means to be blessed.

Catechist Tips: Beatitudes

The Church teaches that the Beatitudes show us which attitudes and actions of our behavior are really Christian. God places the desire to be happy in the heart of every person, so that we will seek him who is the only One who can make humans happy. They are the heart of Jesus' preaching. They are a message to God's people that the promises of the Old Testament for possessing a territory of land, have been replaced by seeking possession of the Kingdom of heaven (CCC, 1716, 1717, 1718).

Today we are going to talk about what makes us happy. How many of you want to be happy? What makes you happy? Help me finish this sentence: *I would rather be happy than ____*. Accept all reasonable responses. Deep inside each of us, even when we are sad or mad, we really want to be happy. That's because God put the desire for happiness inside each of us. Write these words on the board or on chart paper "God made us to be happy with him forever. Say, **Sometimes we think certain people, or things, or events will make us happy. Sometimes they do, and sometimes they don't. Jesus gave us a plan, or map, for happiness in the Beatitudes.. During this lesson, we will find out what those Beatitudes are and how we can live by Jesus' teaching.**

Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Describe how the Beatitudes guide us to show mercy and be a blessing for 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

Jesus Brings God's Blessing

Ask: What did Jesus teach his disciples about blessings?

- Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the paragraph.

- Tell the children that God blesses those who care for others.

Work with Words

Point out the definition of *mercy*.

- Distribute index cards. Have each child make a vocabulary card.

Scripture

Choose eight children to each read aloud one of the Beatitudes.

- Together, proclaim the Scripture. You will read the introductory lines.
- Ask volunteers to explain what they think each Beatitude means. Record their responses. You may need to clarify words such as *meek*, *persecuted*, and *righteousness*.

The Beatitudes

Have the children 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.

Work with Words

Point out the definitions of *Beatitudes*, and *eternal life*.

- Have the children make a vocabulary card for each term.
- ★ Have the children complete the activity.
- On the board or chart paper, draw the graphic organizer from the box below.
- Ask volunteers to describe everyday ways that they could live each Beatitude. Write their ideas in the graphic organizer.
- Refer to The Beatitudes on page 317 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of the Student Book.
- Music Option: Have the children sing, "You Are Near," downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity.

- Have the children write their questions and discuss with a partner.

Quick Review

The Beatitudes teach how to find lasting happiness with God and to work with him as he builds his Kingdom.

Discover (2)

Objective

- Connect that because God first blessed us, everyone can be a blessing to others

Be a Blessing

Ask: What does it mean to be a blessing to others?

- List children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

Introduce the biography by summarizing the introductory paragraph.

Pope Saint John XXIII

Ask the children to think about people who are blessings to them.

- Tell them that this biography will show them how one person was a blessing.
- Read the first part of the biography.

Provide some background on Pope Saint John XXIII (1881–1963).

- Pope John XXIII was known for his simple ways and good nature.
- He wrote encyclicals that promoted social justice and world peace.
- He convened the Second Vatican Council, although he did not live to see its completion.
- He was beatified by Pope Saint John Paul II in 2000, and canonized as a Saint by Pope Francis in 2014.

Sharing Blessings

Continue reading until the end of the biography.

- Have the children scan the story for actions that were blessings. List these actions on the board.
- Have the children look for evidence that Pope Saint John XXIII was meek and clean of heart. Discuss these terms if the children are unfamiliar with them.
- Discuss the questions.
- Discuss how the children can emulate Pope Saint John XXIII's actions in a small way.

Work with Words

Ask the children to raise their hands if they know what *peace* means.

- Read aloud the definition of peace.
- Distribute index cards and have the children each make a vocabulary card for *peace*.

Activity

Point out the Connect Your Faith activity and read aloud the directions.

- Organize the children in pairs and give them time to complete the activity.
- Invite the pairs to share their ways of being a blessing for others.

Quick Review

God calls each person to be a blessing for others.

Catechist Tips: Talk About Blessings

Some children may be experiencing difficult situations at home and find it hard to feel blessed.

- Ask volunteers to give examples of times when something good came from a bad situation.

- To ensure privacy, ask the children to give examples from TV programs or movies.

Catechist Tips: Work in Groups

Some children may need a little help in working with a partner.

- Instead, have the children count off to form larger groups.
- Choose a leader and a reporter for each group.
- Set definite time limits. For discussion groups, five minutes is probably sufficient.
- Ask for a report from each group.

Catechist Tips: Being a Blessing

Fourth-graders may have difficulty understanding that a person can be a blessing.

- A blessing is something that can draw us closer to God.
- Point out that anything that God makes can be a blessing.
- Invite the children to name things that can be blessings and explain why they are blessings.

Catechist Tips: Beatitudes

Two Gospels contain the Beatitudes.

- In the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus teaches on a mountainside. In the Gospel according to Luke, he teaches on a plain.
- In Matthew, Jesus is portrayed as the new Moses. In Luke, the focus is on Jesus' care of the poor.

Glossary Activity: Beatitudes

The Beatitudes contain some words that fourth graders may not recognize.

- Explain that *mourn* means "to be sad"; *meek* means "humble or peaceful"; and *righteousness* means "fairness or justice."
- You may also need to explain that people who are "clean of heart" respect and love God.
- Ask the children whether they need you to explain any other words.

Additional Activity: Picture It

Organize the children in small groups for a game that expands on the Connect Your Faith activity.

- Assign each group a Beatitude, and have group members draw a scene that shows someone living that Beatitude.
- Have groups take turns identifying the various Beatitudes that have been illustrated.

Additional Activity: Intercessory Prayer

The children can learn about intercessory prayers at Mass and write their own.

- Invite a person responsible for the Prayer of the Faithful to talk about it.
- Have the children write prayers for the Church, the parish staff, and others in prayer.

Additional Activity: Manuscript

The children may wish to elaborate on the prayers of intercessions written for this lesson.

- Display a reproduction of an illuminated manuscript from your parish or local library.
- Encourage the children to copy their prayers in the style of the manuscript.

Additional Activity: Create a Blessing Prayer

The children may be familiar with the word *bless* from mealtime blessings.

- Ask the children to share their mealtime blessings.
- Ask which lines they like.
- Encourage the children to work together on a prayer of blessing for meals.

Additional Activity: Blessed Charades Game

Supplies:

- index cards with one of the Beatitudes on each card
- pencil or pen
- digital watch or stopwatch

Remind the children that they have been talking about the people Jesus described in the Beatitudes.

Tell them that in this game they will get to act out specific acts that these people would do. Organize the children into two teams and give each team a card with one of the Beatitudes on it. Each team will take turns and have three minutes to make up a skit showing someone demonstrating the Beatitude, while the other teams try to guess the correct Beatitude. Choose one team to begin. Continue until they have acted out all of the Beatitudes.

Name _____

Date _____

Being a Blessing

For each of the following situations, think of at least two ways that you could be a blessing for others.

Your mother has had a hard day at work and is tired. She is making dinner now, but the phone keeps ringing and your younger brother wants attention.

1. _____
2. _____

Mr. Hatsumi, who lives next door, has a broken leg. He has a hard time walking his dog and taking his trash to the curb. No one ever visits him.

3. _____
4. _____

Your best friend is sad and upset because his hamster died. He doesn't want to play or talk on the phone.

5. _____
6. _____

Your teacher introduces a new student, Bryn, to your class. Bryn doesn't know anyone to sit with at lunch and doesn't know where to catch the bus to go home.

7. _____
8. _____

Name _____ Date _____

Circle *True* if a statement is true, and circle *False* if a statement is false. Correct any false statements.

1. During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his followers the Ten Commandments.

True False _____

2. The word *beatitude* means blessing.

True False _____

3. There are ten beatitudes, just as there are ten Commandments.

True False _____

4. The beatitudes show you how to receive the lasting happiness God calls you to have.

True False _____

5. The Sermon on the Mount shows you that it can never be good to mourn.

True False _____

Complete each sentence with the correct word from the Word Bank. Not all terms will be used.

6. Those who work to bring people together and look for ways to solve problems are known as _____.
7. Jesus said that the _____ in spirit are blessed because they depend on God, not on material things.
8. God will bless you as someone who is _____ if you forgive others and ask their forgiveness.
9. If you wish for God to bless you as one who is _____, then be gentle and humble with others.

•••••

poor

beatitudes

peacemakers

meek

prayerful

merciful

Write a brief response to the statement.

10. Describe something you can do in your life to help you become more clean of heart.

