



Matthew

The Sermon on the Mount

Lesson Objective: Jesus teaches us how to live.

Activity: *Around the World*

Sit in a circle. Choose one player to be The Traveler. They will stand next to a seated player. Explain that you will say a word. The Traveler and the seated player will race to say the opposite of the word. If the Traveler correctly responds first, they will move to the next seated player. If the seated player responds first, the Traveler takes their seat and they become the Traveler. Play continues around the circle. Continue until one player travels all the way around the circle and back to their seat. Sample opposites: for/against, apart/together, admit/deny, friend/enemy, alive/dead, awake/asleep, backward/forward, upside-down/right-side up, before/after, light/dark, bad/good, begin/end, blessing/curse, below/above, come/go, cold/hot, create/destroy, crooked/straight, down/up, temporary/ eternal

Connect To activity to the lesson:

What do you think God's kingdom is like? How do you think God's kingdom is the opposite of the world? In our lesson today, we will learn how God's kingdom is different from the world we live in here on earth.

WORSHIP - Choose 2-3 songs to worship together as a family.

Introduction:

The Old Testament law that the Jews lived by demonstrated their need for salvation. But the Jewish leaders of their day focused much of the law on external appearances rather than the internal condition of their hearts. The message of Jesus' famous speech, called the Sermon on the Mount, offered them a radically different understanding of these laws than what they had been taught. His teaching seemed the exact opposite of the Jewish tradition of the day. He focused more on the condition of a person's heart rather than on their outward works. Jesus was teaching God's people about the heart of God and reaffirming God's blessing on those who put their trust in Him.

Video: The Sermon on the Mount (Video Transcript)

Great crowds of people followed Jesus wherever He went. One day, Jesus went up on a mountain. He sat down and began to teach about the kingdom of God. First, Jesus taught about the blessings that come to those who follow Him. He said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs."

Then Jesus taught how believers should live. Jesus said that believers are the light of the world. "Let your light shine before others so that they may see the good things you do and choose to praise God." Then Jesus taught about God's law. Jesus did not come to get rid of the law, but to obey it perfectly. He said that to enter heaven, a person can't just look righteous on the outside—like the religious leaders. A person must be righteous on the inside too, obeying God for the right reasons. Jesus said, "Love your enemies, and pray for them." He said, "When you give to people who are poor, give in secret. And when you pray, don't pray just so that people will hear you." Jesus taught the people how to pray. He also said, "Forgive others. If you forgive those who sin against you, God will forgive you too. But if you don't forgive them, God will not forgive you." Jesus said, "Do not collect treasures on earth, which can be destroyed or stolen. Collect treasures in heaven instead. For where your treasure is, that is where your heart will be also." He taught that God provides for His people. Jesus taught the people many things. When He finished teaching, the crowds were amazed because He taught them like one who had authority.

Christ Connection: Jesus taught people what it means to follow Him. He taught how people should live, how they should treat one another, and how to love God. People who trust in Jesus live to honor God and show what His kingdom is like.

Read: Matthew 5-7

Debrief:

How is the kingdom of God different than the world? *(The kingdom of God is His rule and reign. We enter God's kingdom when we trust in Jesus and recognize His authority over our lives. God's kingdom is upside-down in many ways compared to the world. His kingdom reflects His values, such as gentleness and humility.)*

How can believers be lights in a dark world? *(Jesus is the light of the world. We are to reflect Him in how we live our lives. Being a light in a dark world means bringing the truth of Jesus to places where there is darkness and lies. Believers can share the gospel with boldness and choose to live in ways that honor God. Help kids identify actions or attitudes that may be associated with "light" [honoring to God] versus "darkness" [dishonoring to God].)*

What blessings come to those who follow Jesus? *(God's blessings do not necessarily mean gaining prosperity on earth. Earthly blessings are good gifts, but they do not last forever and are not guaranteed. God does promise to bless us in the greatest way by giving us Jesus. He promises to transform us to make us like His Son.)*

Apply the Story:

Jesus taught people what God's kingdom is like. He taught people what it means to follow Him. He taught how people should live, how they should treat one another, and how to love God. People who trust in Jesus live to honor God and show what His kingdom is like. Let's think about that this week as we go about our lives. Let's determine in our hearts to live our lives as a reflection of His kingdom.

Momentum Moment *Jesus' Teaching Posters*

Supplies: Bibles; poster board, 1 piece per group; markers or crayons

Select a passage from today's Bible story: Matthew 5:14-16; Matthew 5:43-47; Matthew 6:14-15; Matthew 6:19-21.

You can do one as a group or individually. Read passage. Then work to create a poster about Jesus' teaching in the passage. You can include words and drawings. Try to think of specific ways you can obey Jesus' teachings. When finish, share poster/poster. You may also prompt them to consider how those teachings differ from the teachings of the world.

Emphasize that Jesus taught people how to live in God's kingdom. He taught people what it means to follow Him. He taught how people should live, how they should treat one another, and how to love God. People who trust in Jesus live to honor God and show what His kingdom is like.

Close with a prayer: Let each person take a moment to say a one sentence prayer.