Preschool–Grade 5

Beatitudes Craft

A mountain card with a turning wheel of eight blessings · Matthew 5:1–12 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



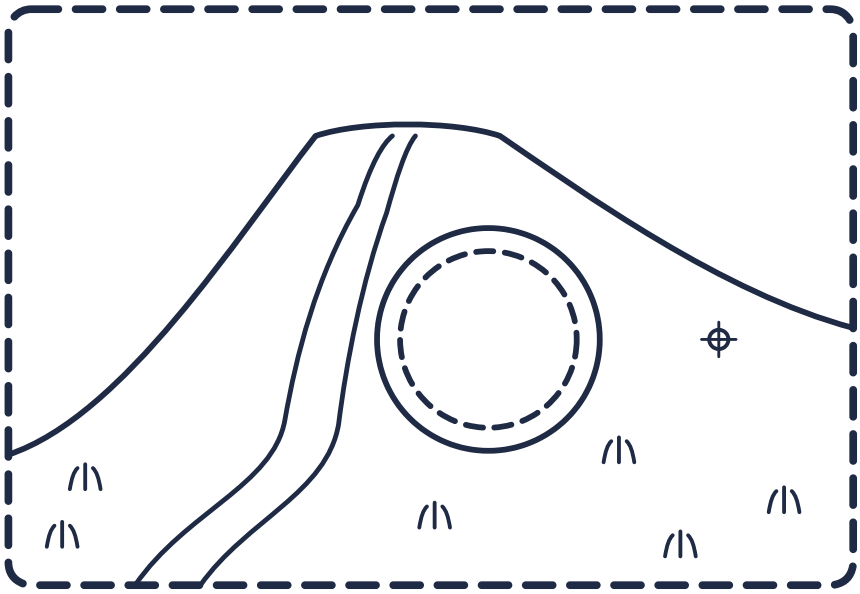
Harder

Medium (left): a mountain card with a light blue sky, a green mountain with a flat top and a light brown path going up it. A round window in a yellow ring shows the yellow crown on the wheel behind, and the colored edge of the wheel sticks out on the right, held on with a brad. Harder (right): the same card with a yellow and orange sun glued in the sky at the top left.

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Mountain card: color the sky light blue, the mountain green, the path light brown and the ring around the window yellow

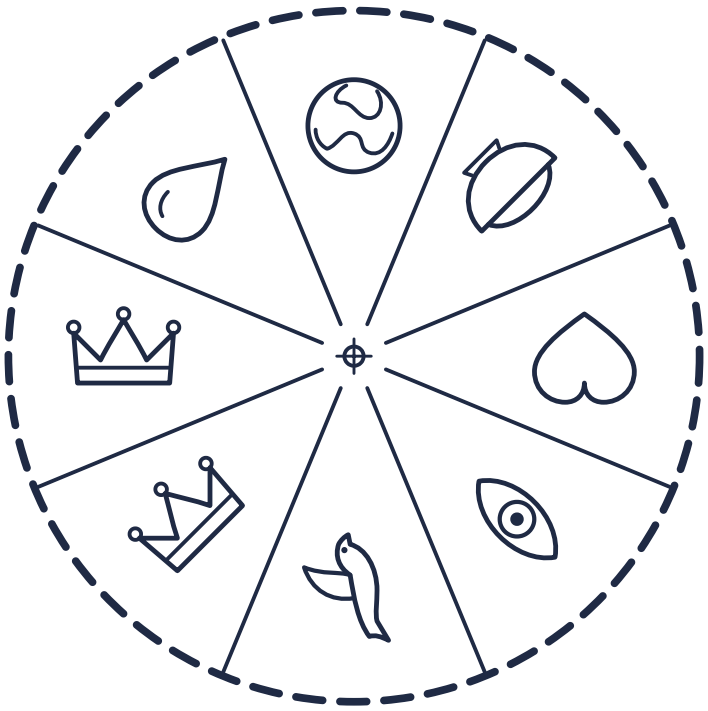
Cut out the window on its dashed circle. Poke the brad hole at the dot.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Matthew 5:9 (KJV)

Verse card: glue it on the back of the card, behind the path

(the end the wheel does not cover)



Blessing wheel: color each part a different color, picture and all:

crown next to the teardrop: yellow
teardrop: light blue
earth: green
bowl: orange
heart: red
eye: purple
dove: pink
crown next to the dove: light brown

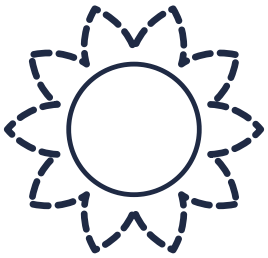
Put the wheel behind the card, dot on dot, and push a brad through both dots. Push the wheel's edge up to turn it.

Matthew 5:3–10: eight blessings.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level



The sun: color the middle yellow and the rays orange

Glue it in the empty sky at the top left of the mountain card.

"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven" (Matthew 5:12).

How to add the sun and find the verses

1. Make the mountain card from page 2, with the verse card glued on the back and the wheel held on with a brad. Cut out the window yourself.
2. Color the middle of the sun yellow and the rays orange. Cut it out on its dashed line, around every ray.
3. Glue the sun in the empty sky at the top left of the mountain card, above the left side of the mountain. Keep it away from the window and the wheel.
4. Open your Bible to Matthew 5. Turn the wheel to the yellow crown and read 5:3. Push the wheel's edge up to show each next picture and read the next verse, through 5:10.
5. Tell what the sun means. After the eight blessings, Jesus spoke right to His listeners: "Blessed are ye" (5:11). "Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven" (5:12). **Exceeding glad** means very, very glad.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/beatitudes-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), one paper fastener (brad) per child, light blue, green, light brown, yellow, orange, red, purple and pink crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks, and a sharp pencil for poking the brad holes. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out each child's mountain card, wheel and verse card, and cut the window open. For kindergarten to 2nd grade, snip a small starting cut inside each window so the kids can cut around it. Make one finished craft to show the kids.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out the pieces and open the windows. Kids color the card and the wheel. Then you glue the verse card on the back and put the wheel on with the brad. Turn the wheel with them while you say, "Jesus sat down on the mountain and taught who is blessed!"
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the pieces and the window, glue the verse card on the back, and a grown-up helps with the brad. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make it like the medium level and cut the window alone, then add the sun from page 3 for the ninth blessing (Matthew 5:11–12) and read each picture's verse in their own Bibles. They say Matthew 5:9 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Why there are no people: the craft draws no people. Matthew 5:1 says that when Jesus saw the multitudes, "he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him." The mountain card shows the mountain, and the wheel shows a picture for each of the eight blessings Jesus taught there (5:3–10). The verse on the back is the memory verse, Matthew 5:9.

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** on the mountain card, color the sky light blue, the mountain green, the path light brown and the ring around the window yellow. On the wheel, color each part a different color, picture and all: the crown next to the teardrop yellow, the teardrop light blue, the earth green, the bowl orange, the heart red, the eye purple, the dove pink, and the crown next to the dove light brown.
2. **Cut:** cut out the mountain card, the wheel and the verse card on the dashed lines. A grown-up snips a small starting cut in the window, and the child cuts around the dashed circle to open it.
3. **Glue the verse card:** turn the mountain card face down. Glue the verse card on its back, behind the path, on the end the wheel does not cover. The verse faces out.
4. **Put on the wheel:** a grown-up pokes a hole with a sharp pencil at the dot on the card and at the dot in the middle of the wheel. Put the wheel behind the card, dot on dot. Push the brad through both holes from the front and open its legs on the back.
5. **Turn and tell:** turn the wheel until the yellow crown shows in the window, and read Matthew 5:3. Push the edge of the wheel up a little to show the next picture, and read the next blessing. Keep going to the second crown (5:10). Then turn the card over and read Matthew 5:9 together.

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the mountain. What did Jesus do when He saw the multitudes? *(He went up into a mountain, Matthew 5:1)*
- What does "when he was set" mean? *(When He sat down. Then His disciples came to Him, and He taught them, 5:1–2)*
- What word starts every saying? *(Blessed. It means God is good to them and they are truly happy, 5:3–11)*
- Turn to the earth. What shall the meek inherit? *(The earth, 5:5)*
- Turn to the dove. What shall the peacemakers be called? *(The children of God, 5:9)*
- Point to the two crowns. Why are there two? *(Matthew 5:3 and 5:10 both end "for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.")*

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What each picture means

Read each blessing from your Bible as it shows in the window. The pictures are only helps for remembering; the Bible doesn't give them.

- **Yellow crown:** "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." *Matthew 5:3 (KJV)* **Poor in spirit** means knowing you need God.
- **Teardrop:** "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." *Matthew 5:4 (KJV)* To **mourn** means to be very sad. God will comfort them, help them and make them feel better.
- **Earth:** "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." *Matthew 5:5 (KJV)* **Meek** means gentle, not proud or bossy. To **inherit** means to be given something to keep.
- **Bowl:** "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." *Matthew 5:6 (KJV)* That means wanting to do what is right as much as a hungry person wants food.
- **Heart:** "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." *Matthew 5:7 (KJV)* **Merciful** means kind and forgiving, even to someone who did wrong to you. To **obtain** means to get.
- **Eye:** "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." *Matthew 5:8 (KJV)* **Pure in heart** means having a clean heart that loves God and wants what is right, with nothing to hide.
- **Dove:** "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." *Matthew 5:9 (KJV)* **Peacemakers** help people stop fighting and be friends again.
- **Light brown crown:** "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." *Matthew 5:10 (KJV)* **Persecuted** means treated badly; **for righteousness sake** means because they did what is right.
- **Sun (harder level):** "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." *Matthew 5:11–12 (KJV)* **Revile** means to call bad names; **falsely** means with lies; **exceeding glad** means very, very glad.

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Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** multitudes = big crowds; when he was set = when He sat down; blessed = God is good to them and they are truly happy; inherit = be given to keep; obtain = get; persecuted = treated badly; rejoice = be glad.
- **What the Bible says:** in the King James Bible, "Blessed" starts nine sayings (Matthew 5:3–11). The wheel holds the eight that say "they" or "theirs" (5:3–10), and the sun on the harder level is the ninth, where Jesus speaks to His listeners as "ye" (5:11–12). The craft shows no crowd and no people, because the text doesn't describe them.
- **Persecution, gently:** for young kids, "persecuted" can simply mean that some people are unkind to us because we love Jesus and do right. Jesus said we can still be very glad (5:12).
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything, open the windows and put the wheels on ahead of time if you like. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **The brad:** poke the holes with a sharp pencil from the front, over a ball of play dough or a folded towel. If the wheel turns stiffly, wiggle the brad and loosen its legs a little.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Beatitudes Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/beatitudes.

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