Preschool–Grade 6

The Beatitudes

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus wants me to be kind and gentle and to make peace.
Bible passage: Matthew 5:1–12. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Blessed are the peacemakers." *Matthew 5:9 (KJV).* **Blessed** means God is good to them and they are truly happy. **Peacemakers** help people stop fighting and be friends again.
You need: a Bible, 4 of the picture cards (a teardrop, a heart, an eye and a dove; see the materials list), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 5. Draw the 4 picture cards.

1. Opening game: Up the Mountain (5 minutes)

Say, "Let's climb a big mountain!" Everyone climbs in place, hands and knees high, puffing as the mountain gets steeper. At the top say, "Sit down!" and everyone sits, quiet as a mouse. Play again two or three times. Say: "Today we will hear a true story. Jesus went up a mountain and sat down, and His friends came to listen to Him."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 5. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Lots and lots of people followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25). *(Point to all the kids.)*
Jesus went up a mountain (5:1). *(Climb with your hands.)*
Jesus sat down (5:1). *(Sit down.)*
His disciples came to Him (5:1). *(Wave "come here.")*
Jesus taught them (5:2). *(Hand by your ear: listen!)*
Say it with me: "I will listen to Jesus!"

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The story continues. Hold up each picture card:
(Teardrop) Jesus said: people who are sad will be comforted, helped by God (5:4). *(Rub your eyes, then hug yourself.)*
(Heart) Jesus said: blessed are the merciful, kind people who forgive (5:7). *(Hands on your heart.)*
(Eye) Jesus said: people with a clean heart shall see God (5:8). *(Point to your eyes.)*
(Dove) Jesus said: "Blessed are the peacemakers" (5:9). *(Shake a friend's hand.)*
Say it with me: "I will make peace!"

3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Where did Jesus go? *(Up a mountain, Matthew 5:1)*
2. What did Jesus do on the mountain? *(He sat down and taught, 5:1–2)*
3. Who did Jesus say is blessed? *(The peacemakers, kind people, people who are sad, 5:4–9)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers.' That means God is good to people who help others stop fighting and be friends." Teach the motions: arms up high for "Blessed," then shake hands with a friend for "the peacemakers." Say it with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Matthew 5:9" and clap two times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

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6. Activity: I Can Make Peace (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a way they can be a peacemaker: sharing a toy, saying "I'm sorry," or helping two friends be friends again. While they color, ask: "Where did Jesus sit down to teach? What does a peacemaker do?" Kids who finish early can play Up the Mountain again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, Jesus, for loving me.
Help me be kind.
Help me make peace.
In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child do the motions. If they get wiggly, climb the mountain and sit down again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

Leave out: the blessings about being persecuted (Matthew 5:10–12) are best for older kids. For preschoolers, keep to the mountain, Jesus teaching, and the sad, the kind, the clean in heart and the peacemakers.

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