



The Beatitudes for Kids

Liguori Kids Series Lesson Plans Introduction

The Liguori Kids pamphlets are written to help children in the elementary grades understand and talk about difficult topics. These accompanying lesson plans are designed to assist catechists, teachers, and parents with a 30- to 45-minute lesson for each Liguori Kids pamphlet. The lesson plans are very flexible and can be used in their entirety or in part, depending on the needs of the participants and the length of the session.

Some of the topics are well suited to younger children; others are more suited for children in the fifth grade and above. Most of the topics can be adjusted to reach nearly all students at the elementary and middle school levels. The comments in the “Overview of the Pamphlet” section at the beginning of each lesson plan will help the catechist determine the pamphlet’s appropriateness for various grade levels. In addition, the “Questions for Discussion” section is broken into two or three levels to facilitate meaningful dialog for both younger and older children.

Lesson plans follow this general format:

1. Overview of the Pamphlet
2. Opening Prayer
3. Related Scripture Reading
4. Guided Reading Suggestions
5. Questions for Discussion and/or Activity
 - For younger children
 - For older children
6. Closing Prayer

The catechist should feel free to adjust the format to meet the needs of the participants.

To establish an atmosphere of prayer and reflection, it is suggested that the catechist light a quality candle before reading the opening prayer at the beginning of each lesson. Explain to the students that the flame symbolizes Christ’s presence as the Light of the World at this gathering.

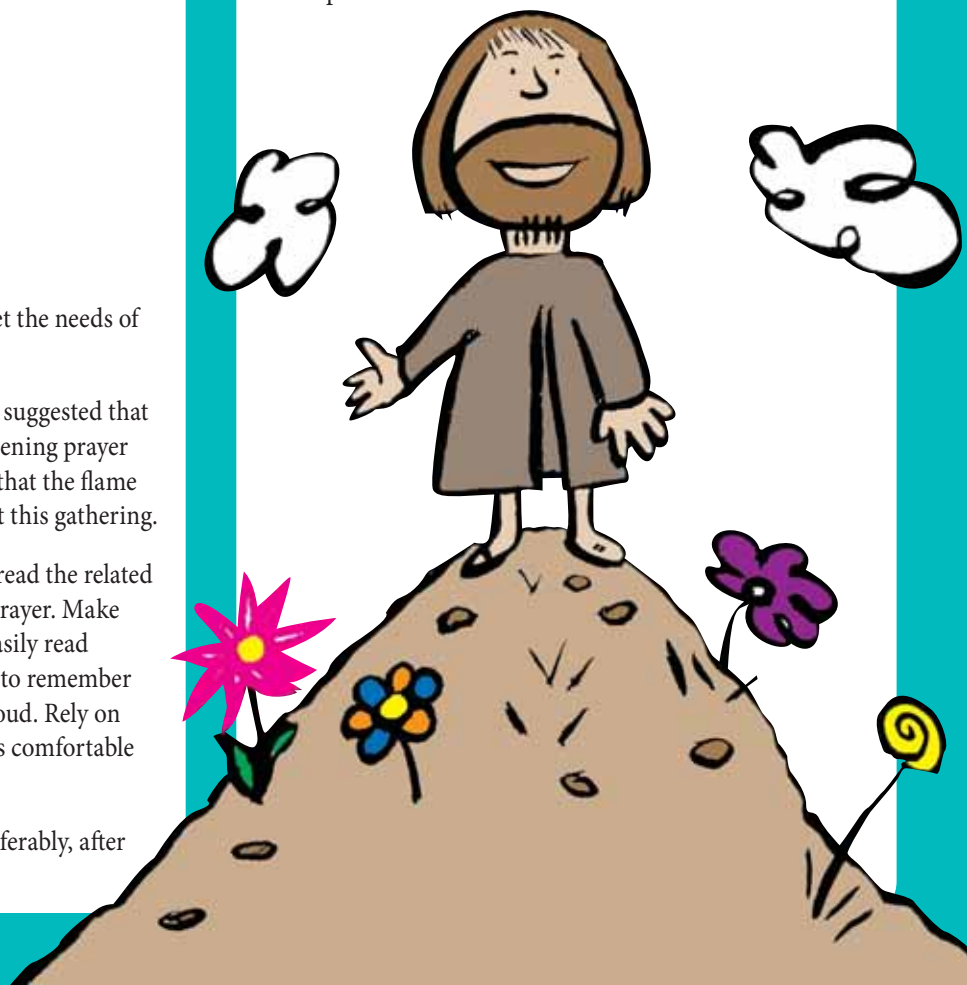
A student who has had the opportunity to prepare may read the related Scripture passage after the catechist reads the opening prayer. Make sure the Scripture passage is taken from a bible that is easily read and understood by the participants. It is also important to remember that, in this setting, no child should be forced to read aloud. Rely on volunteers and strive to maintain an environment that is comfortable and non-threatening for all participants.

Extinguish the candle after the Scripture reading or, preferably, after the closing prayer at the end of the lesson.

Overview of the Pamphlet

This pamphlet, *The Beatitudes for Kids*, begins with Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, a passage that contains the Beatitudes (and should be used for the Opening Prayer). Authors Steve and Sue Givens then take a close look at the eight Beatitudes, explaining each with language and examples that will be appreciated by children in the primary grades, as well as older elementary students. Each explanation is followed by a short prayer asking God to help participants seek that specific Beatitude’s special quality or attribute.

All should be invited to participate in the reading of this booklet. This will help maintain interest and attention as each Beatitude is explored. There are eight sections, which can be divided among children who would like to read. Suggestions for ways to involve those who do not want to read will be given in the **Guided Reading** section of this lesson plan.

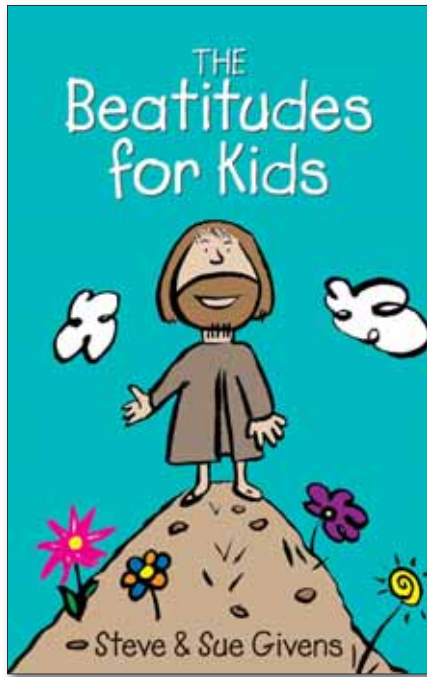


Opening Prayer/ Scripture Reading:

Matthew 5:3-12

(If possible, light a candle just before reading the Opening Prayer.)

*Because each of the eight sections of this pamphlet ends with a prayer, this lesson plan does not include an Opening Prayer. Begin with the **Introduction** on page 3 of the booklet, *Jesus' Sermon on the Mount*. It is recommended that the catechist read this*



introduction slowly and clearly, pausing for a moment after each Beatitude.

Guided Reading

After prayerfully reading the passage from Matthew, the catechist may finish the introduction (pp. 4-5), which explains the meaning of the word “beatitude.” Then, willing participants can take turns reading the descriptions of each Beatitude. The short prayer following each section (entitled *In My Life*) can be read by one person or by the entire group to increase participation. Those who do not get a chance to read, or who are uncomfortable doing so, can add to the discussion by giving practical “real life” examples of how a particular Beatitude can be lived out by children in today’s world. For example, a child who is “poor in spirit” may choose to spend time with a sick grandparent rather than going to a movie with friends. A child who “thirsts for righteousness” may choose not to involve herself in cruel gossip about another student.

Questions for Discussion

1. In the Old Testament, we are given the Ten Commandments. Why are they important to us today? How are the Beatitudes different from the Ten Commandments? Why are they important to us today?
2. Why are the Beatitudes, in a sense, *more difficult* to follow than the Ten Commandments, especially in a world that values money, power, and possessions above all else?
3. Give examples of real people who exemplify one or more of the Beatitudes. What makes this person a hero even though he or she is not a famous athlete or movie star?
4. Great athletes and famous music or movie stars are rewarded with money and fame. How are those who live the Beatitudes rewarded during their lifetimes here on earth?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, give us the wisdom and courage to be poor in spirit. . . in a world that glorifies power and fame.

Give us the wisdom and courage to mourn. . . because we know you are with us always.

Give us the wisdom and courage to remain meek. . . and to be mindful of the truth that all we have and all we accomplish comes through you.

Give us the wisdom and courage to always do what is right. . . even when what is right is not what is popular or easy.

Give us the wisdom and courage to be merciful. . . even when it is very difficult to forgive.

Give us the wisdom and courage to be pure of heart. . . even when we feel overwhelmed by jealousy or a thirst for power or popularity.

Give us the wisdom and courage to be peacemakers. . . in a world torn apart by violence.

Jesus, give us the wisdom and courage to remain strong when people make fun of us because we love you and follow you. . . may we never forget that our reward in heaven is great! Amen.



For more titles in the Liguori Kids series
visit www.liguori.org/kids