

Jesus Taught about Character (Matthew 5)



Dear families,

What do you think would happen if you stomped on a ketchup packet? Would you expect only air to escape the contents of the packet? Undoubtedly, the pressure of the stomp would result in an explosion of ketchup, and perhaps a messy shoe.

Oddly enough, we don't always predict our responses to specific situations accurately. In moments of extreme pressure or challenge, we are surprised at our own responses and decisions.

The beginning of The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5 contains what we often call the 'Beatitudes.' In these eight verses, there are specific descriptions of people who could be seen in a negative light. Poor, mourning, humbled, hungry, thirsty, and persecuted are all words that describe a posture seen as less than favorable in our culture. Yet, this text speaks of the blessing of each of them.

The blessings result through a God-centered perspective. The poor in spirit, hungry, humble are those who have set their hope in God and His eternal kingdom. The poor in spirit have recognized that they are utterly lost without God. Those who mourn acknowledge the guilt of their sin and the pain of a broken world. The hungry and thirsty understand that nothing in this world will satisfy like Jesus. The character of the people of God reveals a response of faith in Him.

Who we are isn't determined by how we respond to pain and hardship; however, our character is often displayed in these moments. The choices we make and the way in which we fill ourselves during times of peace and rest are often revealed during high-pressure situations. Those being transformed by the power of God will display faithfulness and virtue in these times. Those not gripped by the Spirit of God will display their graceless state.

Don't be surprised that what you have filled yourself with comes out when you are pressed. And don't be surprised when God shows Himself to you in a distinct way in these times of trouble.

Check out *The Gospel Project At Home* for resources designed to help you lead a family worship experience as well as suggestions for morning and evening prayer times and family activities.

FAMILY TALKING POINTS

CHRIST CONNECTION

This is the big idea of how this week's Bible story points to Jesus.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** People who trust in Jesus will be like Him.
- ✧ **Younger Preschool:** Jesus taught about how to follow Him. People who trust in Jesus will be like Him and tell others about Him.
- ✧ **Older Preschool:** Jesus taught about what it means to follow Him. He taught how people should live. People who trust in Jesus live to honor God and lead others to know Him.
- ✧ **Kids:** Jesus taught people what it means to follow Him. He taught how people should live. People who trust in Jesus live to honor God and show what His kingdom is like.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION & ANSWER

This is an important biblical truth that your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Younger Preschool:** What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God.
- **Older Preschool:** What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom.
- **Kids:** What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.

KEY PASSAGE

This is a Bible verse that relates to what your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** Lord, You are great and powerful. 1 Chronicles 29:11

- **Younger Preschool:** Lord, You are great and powerful. Everything belongs to You. 1 Chronicles 29:11
- **Older Preschool:** Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory ... for everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to you. 1 Chronicles 29:11
- **Kids:** Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the splendor and the majesty, for everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to you. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all. 1 Chronicles 29:11

**** Next week:** Jesus Taught About Behavior (Matthew 6)