

Department Level: Juniors

Unit 1: The Beatitudes (part one)

Lesson Concept: Humility

Instructional Objectives:

1. The child will recite from memory the first Beatitude from memory with no more than two helps (Matthew 5:3).

2. The child will explain the first four Beatitudes

3. The child will give a personal example of application of the first Beatitude.

Materials Needed: none

Opening Activities:

Because He Set Me Free

Whisper a Prayer

Thank You Lord

Memory Verse Activities:

Read the verse to the students. Define the concept "poor in spirit." Ask students what the "kingdom of heaven is." Read the verse twice in unison. Explain the meaning of the verse. Separate the students into two groups (i.e. boys and girls; blond and brunette), and have the groups each say half of the verse. Repeat the verse in unison. Ask students to explain the meaning of the verse. Repeat the verse again in unison.

Sequence of Activities:

1. Activation of prior knowledge.

The students will be asked if they have ever heard of a Pharisee or a Publican. The teacher will explain what each is if the students have never heard of the two terms. The students will also be asked

what pride and humility are. The students will also be asked to give some examples of each, and the teacher will then show the relation between pride and the Pharisees and humility and the Publican.

2. Instruction: Luke 18:10-14

I. The Pride of the Pharisee is evidenced.

a. Pharisees were self-righteous, rule following Jews that rejected Christ.

b. The Pharisee went to the temple to pray, and he prayed loudly so that all could hear him and marvel at how spiritual he was (Luke 18:10-12).

II. The Humility of the Publican is expressed.

a. The Publican had sinned many times.

b. The Publican saw himself as a sinner, unworthy of salvation; he realized he needed God's mercy to save him.

III. The choice to be humble and accept salvation is given.

a. A child can choose to believe that he does not need God for salvation, that his works are sufficient as the Pharisee (Isaiah 64:6; Titus 3:5).

b. A child can choose to humble himself before God and accept Christ's payment and mercy for salvation as the Publican did.

3. Lesson Importance and Application:

You may believe that you are all set when it comes to salvation because you have been raised in a Christian home, or because your parents are saved, or because you have never committed any serious crimes. This is not enough. The Bible clearly explains that to be saved one must completely rely on Christ and not on "good" works. The publican realized that he was unworthy of even praying to Christ, and God said that he had been justified and that the Pharisee, who was relying on things that he had done to save him, was not justified. Choose to rely on Christ for salvation.

You may have accepted Christ as Savior by realizing your own unworthiness, but it doesn't stop there. Christians must rely on Christ to sanctify them and make them more into his image. II Corinthians 3:5 says that our sufficiency is of Christ and not ourselves. Rely on Christ to make you clean.

4. Lesson Closure:

Question Time:

a. Who was the group of people that rejected Christ and instead walked about with a prideful "holier than thou" attitude? -Pharisees

b. Who is this lesson was justified, according to what Christ said?

-the Publican

c. What must be done if we are to be justified?

-Humble ourselves and rely on Christ for salvation

5. Application Activity:

The students will participate in role playing present-day examples of the Pharisee and the Publican.

- The first two examples given will be a child giving in an offering plate loudly, announcing the amount he will be giving (Pharisee), and a child humbly and quietly giving in the offering (Publican).
- The second two examples given will be a child announcing how kind he is and bragging that he is the most spiritual student in his class (Pharisee), and a child acting kind, not looking for the teacher's approval, without announcing that he is kind.
- The third two examples given will be a child pronouncing how he doesn't disobey or lie to his parents, presenting himself as a "perfect child" (Pharisee) and a child admitting that he is a sinner that needs a Saviour.

The students will review the memory verse using the game Erase-A-Word.

6. Each student will be evaluated based on the objectives listed above.

Evaluation:

The students will recite Matthew 5:3.

The students will give an example and application of humility.