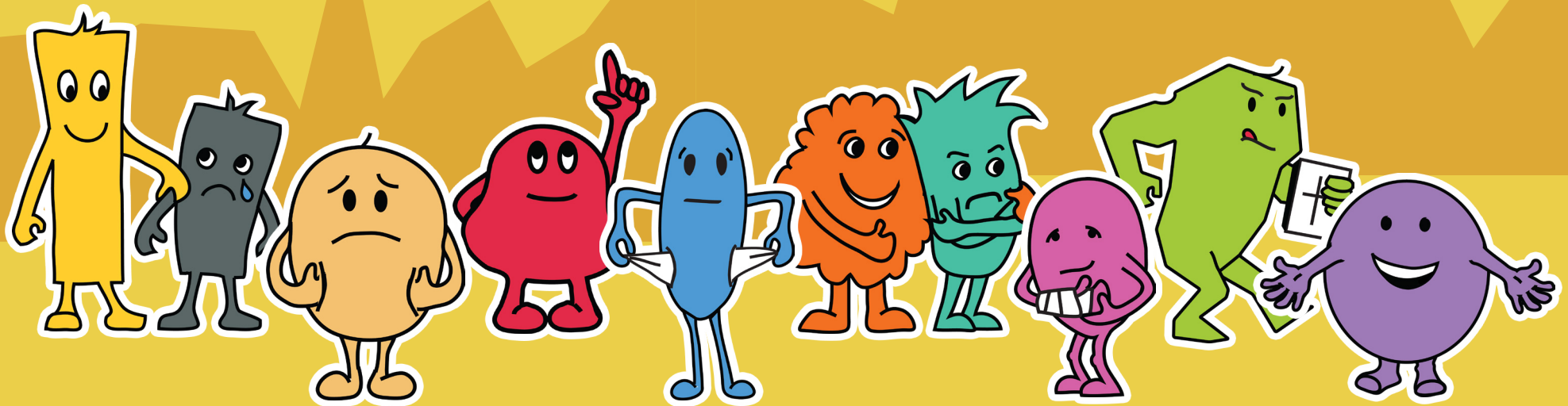


**BITE SIZE ALL AGE TALKS BASED ON THE BEATITUDES**

# THE **BEST LIFE** IS THE **BLESSED LIFE**

**Matthew 5:3-10**



**faith** **kids**

The Blessed Life

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Artwork: Alex Webb-Peploe | Talk character illustrations: Nina Snyman | Writing team: Joshua Cooley, Cathy Dalton & Paula Standal

'All for the glory of God alone' (1 Corinthians 10:31)

## TALK 1

# BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Matthew 5:3



### BIG IDEA

The best life is found in God's family. It is his gift; we contribute nothing.



### FAITH IN KIDS LOOKS LIKE

Children who are humbly confident of their place in God's family, knowing it depends on God and not on them.

### You will need...

- ▶ An adult size jumper that looks like a primary school jumper (use the same jumper throughout the series so you can add the character pictures to it)
- ▶ A badge/picture of the 'Poor in Spirit' character to attach to the jumper
- ▶ Something to wear that has a pocket you can show is empty

### Make PowerPoint slides of the following...

- ▶ The full set of Beatitude character illustrations
- ▶ Matthew 5:3 and the 'Poor in Spirit' character illustration

## SPACE FOR NOTES

## THE STORY

Good morning! I'm...

Did you know that Jesus taught about things called Beatitudes? You're probably wondering, *What in the world is a Beatitude?* In fact, on the count of three, say, 'What in the world is a Beatitude?' Ready? One, two, three... **(Pause for response.)**

I'm so glad you asked!

The Beatitudes were sayings that Jesus taught. They're part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount which we can read in Matthew chapter 5 in the Bible. They're called Beatitudes because the word means 'blessed' or 'happy' and each saying starts with 'Blessed are...!'. Jesus said things like, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit,' 'Blessed are the meek,' 'Blessed are the pure in heart.'

**(Slide of the full set of Beatitude character illustrations with titles.)**

The Beatitudes describe Jesus, and the people who follow him. Jesus was saying, 'When you live this way, you're showing people what I'm like.' This is the best way to live. The best life is the blessed life.

Let's remember this: The Beatitudes don't get us into God's family. Everyone is born into a human family. But the Bible says we're all born outside God's family because of our sin. That's a big problem!

## SPACE FOR NOTES

But there's good news: God loves us so much, he sent his son Jesus to fix our sin problem. We become part of God's family when we trust Jesus.

Think of it this way: Put up your hand if you've got a school jumper. **(Hold up the jumper.)**

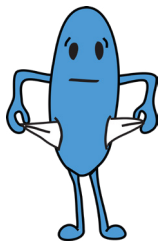
When you wear your jumper, people know which school you belong to. But you weren't born wearing that jumper or going to that school! You got it *because* you're part of that school. The Beatitudes tell us how to live Jesus' way. They're a bit like our Jesus jumper. When we live this way people can see that we belong to God's family. We're wearing the same jumper Jesus wears. **(Put on the jumper.)**

Let's look at the first Beatitude: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

**(Slide of Matthew 5:3 and Poor in Spirit character.)**

'The kingdom of heaven' means 'God's family'. But what does 'poor in spirit' mean? Is that like not having any spirit in your wallet or purse or pockets? **(Humorously pull out your pocket liners to reveal nothing there...)** Look, I spent all my spirit. I don't have any left!

No, Jesus wasn't talking about coins. Being poor in spirit is about how we think about ourselves. Do we think we're so great that we earned a place in God's family? No! Being in God's family is a gift from God that we didn't deserve.



## SPACE FOR NOTES

Let me ask you a few questions **(allow the audience to answer):**

- ▶ Is it good to obey your parents? Yes!
- ▶ Is it good for you to be kind to others? Yes!
- ▶ Is it good to go to church? Yes!

All these things are very good. But doing them won't get you into God's family. We can't do anything or give anything to God to get us into his family. Only Jesus can do that for us. We come to God with our spiritual pockets empty. **(Pull out your pocket liners to reveal nothing there.)**

Nobody wants to be poor. Not having enough money makes life hard. But being poor in spirit is a good thing!

- ▶ When I look around church and think 'God won't want someone like me in his family' I can remember the empty pockets - no-one deserves God's love and forgiveness. I'll tell myself 'God's family is for ordinary, not-very-impressive people just like me!'
- ▶ When I argue, or get into trouble at school or work, I can remember the empty pockets - I didn't get into God's family by being good. I'll tell myself I still belong in God's family. I can say sorry for what I've done, and ask God to help me to change.

## SPACE FOR NOTES

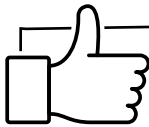
- ▶ When I'm feeling really good about myself, at the top of my class or being team captain, I'll still remember the empty pockets. These good things don't make me better than other people. I'll thank Jesus for things going well, and I'll thank him even more for giving me a place in God's family that I don't deserve.

'Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

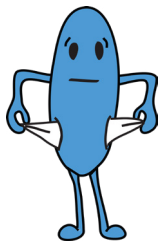
**(Attach the Poor in Spirit badge/picture to the jumper you are wearing.)**

Being in God's family is the best life. It's a gift from him for us to enjoy. The best life is the blessed life!

Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank you that we can live a blessed, happy life when we trust in you as our Lord and Saviour. Thank you for giving us a place in your family. Help us to grow in our understanding of the Beatitudes and all the spiritual blessings you want to give us. Amen.



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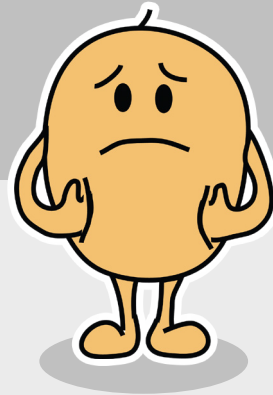


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**BLESSED LIFE**

## TALK 2

# BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN

Matthew 5:4



### BIG IDEA

Christians are sad to see brokenness, including their own sinful hearts, but are comforted by knowing that God has started the mending.



### FAITH IN KIDS LOOKS LIKE

Children who feel sad about sin and suffering, and rely on Jesus as the solution.

### You will need...

- ▶ An adult size jumper that looks like a primary school jumper (use the same jumper throughout the series so you can add the character pictures to it)
- ▶ A badge/picture of the 'Mourning' character to attach to the jumper
- ▶ An adult volunteer to act

### Make PowerPoint slides of the following...

- ▶ The full set of Beatitude character illustrations
- ▶ Matthew 5:4 and the 'Mourning' character illustration
- ▶ Pictures of Jesus comforting Mary and Martha in John 11:1-44 and Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10 (suggested website for Bible illustrations: [www.freebibleimages.org](http://www.freebibleimages.org))
- ▶ Slide of Revelation 21:4

## SPACE FOR NOTES

## THE STORY

Good morning! I'm...

(Slide of the full set of Beatitude character illustrations with titles.)

We are learning about the Beatitudes which are sayings that Jesus taught. They're in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapter 5.

The Beatitudes describe Jesus, and people who follow him. When we live this way people can see that we belong to God's family. Remember, it's like we're wearing the same jumper as Jesus. (Put on the jumper.)

Today, we're talking about the second Beatitude: 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted'.

(Slide of Matthew 5:4 and Mourning character.)

Hmmm, what does it mean to mourn? Let's talk about that for a moment...

(Suddenly, the teacher gets interrupted by the actor who enters the scene.)

**Teacher (surprised):** Oh, hi (name). What are you doing here?

**Actor (in tears):** I'm sorry to interrupt. But I'm so sad.

**Teacher:** What happened?

## SPACE FOR NOTES

**Actor (talking through sniffles):** Well, when I woke up, I hit my knee getting out of bed. My little brother ate all the Coco Pops for breakfast, so we got in a fight, which I feel bad about. Then I saw my sister had ripped up my new magazine. And my goldfish died! It's been an awful day so far. **(Starts bawling as they leave the scene.)**

Wow, what happened to **(name)** is pretty sad. That's what mourning means, it's being sad. Sometimes, lots of bad stuff happens in our lives. The Bible tells us why.

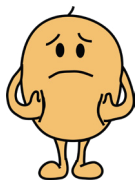
At the beginning of the Bible, Adam and Eve disobeyed God - they sinned.

Sin is saying 'no' to God's good rule. It's like shaking your fist at him and saying, 'No, God, I don't want to obey! I want to rule my life!' **(Act this out.)**

Sin broke their relationship with God and it spoilt the good things in his creation. That's why there's all sorts of bad stuff, like wars, earthquakes, sickness and death. Sin is a big problem for us too.

It's right to feel sad about things that are broken. It's also right to feel sad about our sin, like when **(name)** felt bad about fighting with his/her brother. God says we must repent of our sins. That means we say sorry and ask for forgiveness and help to change.

But it's not just our own sin that makes us sad. Other people's sin hurts us too, like when



## SPACE FOR NOTES

**(name's)** sister ripped up his/her magazine. All this is worth mourning over.

Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who mourn', but being sad doesn't sound like the best life. The good news is that when we mourn, we're comforted by Jesus. When he was on earth, Jesus spent a lot of time comforting people.

### **(Slide of Mary and Martha picture)**

- ▶ Mary and Martha were really sad when their brother Lazarus died. Jesus went to them, he cried with them, he comforted them. He also raised Lazarus from the dead!

### **(Slide of Zaccheus picture)**

- ▶ Jesus also comforted people who were sad about their sin. Zacchaeus was a liar, cheater, and a thief. But when he met Jesus, Zacchaeus saw how bad his sin was. Jesus comforted him by forgiving him and changing him.

Even though we can't see him now, Jesus is still comforting people in his family. When we mess up and sin, Jesus welcomes us with open arms **(stretch out your arms)**. He loves us and forgives us.

When we're sad about the bad things that happen to us and around us, he's with us. He listens to us because he cares about how we feel. That's what the best life means right now.

### **(Slide of Revelation 21:4.)**

## SPACE FOR NOTES

One day, the best life will get even better. When Jesus comes back, he will take his whole family to heaven to live with him forever. Revelation 21:4 says: 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.'

**(Actor returns to the scene.)**

**Teacher:** Hi **(name)**, how are you feeling?

**Actor (looks downcast):** I still feel quite sad. But what you've told me has helped a bit.

**Teacher:** Oh, how?

**Actor:** I know that Jesus is with me and I can pray to him and tell him how I feel.

**Teacher:** Yes, he knows how much you love your Coco Pops! And he understands you feel sad about your goldfish dying.

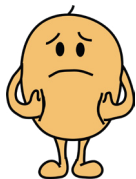
**Actor:** And I know that Jesus will forgive me for fighting with my brother.

**Teacher:** I'm glad we can both look forward to the day when Jesus gets rid of everything bad and sad forever.

**(Slide of Matthew 5:4 and Mourning character.)**

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.'

**(Attach the Mourning badge/picture to the jumper you are wearing.)**



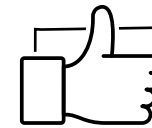
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**BLESSED LIFE**

## SPACE FOR NOTES

Even on a bad day like **(name)** is having, they're still blessed. Even when we're sad, the blessed life is the best life because Jesus comforts us.

Let's pray.

Dear Jesus, this world is a sad, broken place because of our sin. But you are the answer to all the sadness in the world. Thank you that when we are sad about our sin, you comfort us. Amen.



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## TALK 3

# BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

## Matthew 5:5



### BIG IDEA

Christians can be humble and gentle, rather than pushing to get more, because they know God will one day give them everything.



### FAITH IN KIDS LOOKS LIKE

Children who are content with less because they are certain of their Father's care.

### You will need...

- ▶ An adult size jumper that looks like a primary school jumper (use the same jumper throughout the series so you can add the character pictures to it)
- ▶ A badge/picture of the 'Meek' character to attach to the jumper
- ▶ A sign to hang around your neck that says, 'I'm number 1!'
- ▶ An adult volunteer to act
- ▶ A lunch box
- ▶ A wallet/purse

### Make PowerPoint slides of the following...

- ▶ The full set of Beatitude character illustrations
- ▶ Matthew 5:5 and the 'Meek' character illustration

## SPACE FOR NOTES

## THE STORY

Good morning! I'm...

**(Slide of the full set of Beatitude character illustrations with titles.)**

We are learning about the Beatitudes which are sayings that Jesus taught. They're in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapter 5.

The Beatitudes describe Jesus, and people who follow him. When we live this way people can see that we belong to God's family. Remember, it's like we're wearing the same jumper as Jesus.

**(Put on the jumper.)**

Today, we're talking about the third Beatitude: 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth!'

**(Slide of Matthew 5:5 and Meek character.)**

What in the world is meekness?

When we describe people, we may say, 'That girl is a bit shy,' or 'Wow, that boy is really talkative!' But meekness is different. It's not part of our personality or something that comes naturally to us.

Most people think: 'I'm Number 1!' **(Put the sign around your neck.)**

But a meek person is humble. They know God is number 1. **(Take off the sign and point up to copy the Meek character on the slide.)**

## SPACE FOR NOTES

They don't always think about themselves first or what's in it for them. Meekness also means being teachable - you know that you don't have all the answers and you aren't always right.

Most people think: 'Meekness is weakness.'

**(Actor comes onstage and pretends to be a school bully. The teacher is the victim. Act out the following scenario.)**

**Bully:** 'Give me your lunch now, or I'll pound you into the ground!'

**Teacher:** 'Please don't hurt me! I'll do anything you say! Here, take my lunch! Take my wallet/purse! Take my shoes! Just don't hurt me!!!'

**(Teacher breaks out of character to address the audience.)**

That's NOT meekness!

Meekness doesn't mean it's OK for others to mistreat you or walk all over you. Being weak means you *can't* stand up for your rights. Being meek means you *could* stand up for your rights, but you *choose* not to. Jesus was the most powerful man on earth. But he didn't fight back when he was arrested, mocked and put on the cross to die. He showed us that being meek doesn't mean you're weak.

So, let's try that again...

**Bully:** 'Give me your lunch now, or I'll pound you into the ground!'

## SPACE FOR NOTES

**Teacher:** 'No! It's not right for you to steal my lunch. But if you're hungry I'll share it with you.'

**(Bully looks surprised. Teacher breaks out of character to address the audience.)**

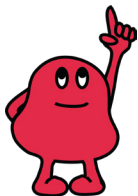
That's better!

It's not easy to be meek. We feel like we'll miss out or people will treat us badly **(point to the bully)**. But it's worth it because being meek means we're living the blessed life. Jesus said, 'the meek will inherit the earth'. One day, God will make a new heaven and a new earth. His family will rule with Jesus there. We don't have to get our own way **(hold up the 'I'm number 1' sign)** or have everything in this life because God promises his family incredible blessings in the next life.

**(Actor leaves the scene. Put up the slide with the Meek character.)**

So...

- ▶ The next time you're arguing with your friends about who goes first, remember that you're not number 1, God is **(point up to copy the Meek character)**. You can choose to be meek like Jesus and let them go first.
- ▶ The next time you don't want to do what your parents say because you think you know better, remember that you're not number 1, God is **(point up to copy the Meek character)**. You can choose to listen to him and ask him to help you to obey.



## SPACE FOR NOTES

- ▶ The next time all the kids at school are talking about a toy or video game you don't have, remember that one day you will inherit everything! You can thank God for everything he has given you and you can look forward to enjoying his blessings forever.

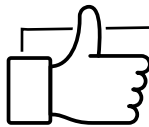
'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.'

**(Attach the Meek badge/picture to the jumper you are wearing.)**

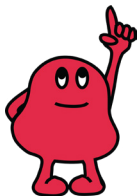
We don't need to be Number 1. Being in God's family and living with him forever is better. Remember, the best life is the blessed life!

Let's pray.

Dear Jesus, thank you for providing the perfect example of meekness by coming to earth and dying for us. Please help us to live meek, humble lives as we follow you, remembering that you are Number 1. Amen.



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## TALK 4

# BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Matthew 5:6



### BIG IDEA

Christians want their hearts and lives to be totally pleasing to God.



### FAITH IN KIDS LOOKS LIKE

Children who care deeply about their own behaviour, praying confidently for greater godliness.

### You will need...

- ▶ An adult size jumper that looks like a primary school jumper (use the same jumper throughout the series so you can add the character pictures to it)
- ▶ A badge/picture of the 'Hungry and thirsty for righteousness' character to attach to the jumper
- ▶ An adult volunteer to act as a desert wanderer (wearing a tattered costume covered in sand/dirt if possible)
- ▶ A doughnut and a bottle of water
- ▶ A Bible

### Make PowerPoint slides of the following...

- ▶ Matthew 5:6 and the 'Hungry and thirsty for righteousness' character illustration
- ▶ The full set of Beatitude character illustrations
- ▶ Psalm 119 verse 10

## SPACE FOR NOTES

### THE STORY

Good morning! My name is... and it's great to be with you this morning. Today, we're going to be learning about...

**(Suddenly, the actor staggers/crawls in, interrupting the teacher. They act as if they've been stranded in the desert for days without food or water.)**

**Desert wanderer (exhausted and exasperated):** Water! Water! Does anyone have some water?

**Teacher (surprised):** (Name), what on earth happened to you?

**Desert wanderer:** I've been lost in the desert for days, trying to find food and water. **(Teacher shoots a quizzical look to the audience.)** You don't have any fish and chips, do you? I'm starving!

**Teacher:** No, sorry, I'm fresh out at the moment. But here's my snack for later...I've got a bottle of water and a doughnut.

**(Desert wanderer whoops with joy before snatching the items. He/she glugs the water and stuffs his/her mouth full with the doughnut.)**

**Desert wanderer (relieved):** Thank you so much. You saved my life!

**Teacher:** Anytime!

## SPACE FOR NOTES

**Desert wanderer:** No, really. I felt like I was dying of hunger and thirst in the desert, and now I'm full and my thirst has been quenched.

**Teacher (getting impatient to carry on with the kid's slot):** No problem.

**Desert wanderer (profusely thankful):** No, seriously, my stomach wouldn't stop growling. **(Make silly growling noises.)** But now it's stuffed full of the delicious doughnut you gave me. Mmmmm!

**Teacher (feeling pretty awkward at this point):** Really, don't mention it.

**Desert wanderer:** OK, see you later.

**(Actor walks off patting his/her stomach. The teacher addresses the audience again.)**

Wow, that was interesting! But you know what? That reminds me of our lesson today about the Beatitudes.

**(Slide of Matthew 5:6 and 'Hungry and thirsty' character.)**

In Matthew 5:6, Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled!'

**(Slide of the full set of Beatitude character illustrations with titles.)**

As a reminder, the Beatitudes are sayings that Jesus taught which are in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapter 5. They describe



## SPACE FOR NOTES

Jesus, and people who follow him. When we live this way people can see that we belong to God's family. Remember, it's like we're wearing the same jumper as Jesus. **(Put on the jumper.)**

Now, our desert wandering friend was really hungry and thirsty. We would be too if we'd been lost in a hot, dry desert. Today's verse tells us about being hungry and thirsty for righteousness not water and doughnuts.

'Righteousness' is a big word that has a few different meanings. But in today's Beatitude, it means 'living in a way that pleases God!' When we 'hunger and thirst for righteousness,' it means that we really want to please God with the things we think, say and do. **(Point to head, mouth and whole body.)**

A person in the Bible who was hungry and thirsty for righteousness was King David. He loved God very much. Here's what he wrote in Psalm 119:10: 'I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.' **(Slide of verse.)**

Do you see how much David wanted to live for God? He prayed and read God's Word often. The more he knew about God and how good he is, the more he wanted to know God. He got hungrier and thirstier to live for God.

**(Slide of Matthew 5:6 and 'Hungry and thirsty' character.)**

## SPACE FOR NOTES

**(Hold up a Bible.)** It's the same for us. When we read the Bible and pray, we see how good God is. **(Open the Bible and look amazed. Quickly act out flipping through some of the pages and stopping a few times to exclaim how good God is.)**

The more we see how good God is, the more we will want to know him and please him, just like **(name)** really, really wanted water when he/she was thirsty **(hold up the water bottle).**

Living for God and obeying him isn't always easy. Only Jesus did that perfectly. He will help us to live for God because that's the best life now and forever. God made us to worship him forever. When we hunger and thirst for his righteousness, he will fill our hearts with more and more of himself! And that's way better than a belly full of doughnuts!

So this week, talk to your mum or dad about how you can read the Bible and pray more to help you hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Let's also look for ways that we can do the right thing to please God such as...

- ▶ When your brother hits you or calls you a name, you can remember that God is pleased when you don't do the same back. Instead you love and forgive him even if he didn't say sorry.
- ▶ When your parents ask you to clean your room, you can remember that God is pleased when you obey them and do what they ask.



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## SPACE FOR NOTES

**(Slide of Matthew 5:6 and Hungry and Thirsty character. Hold up your Bible to copy the character.)**

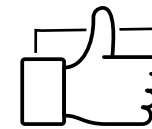
'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'

**(Attach the Hungry and Thirsty badge/picture to the jumper you are wearing.)**

Jesus promises that when we hunger and thirst for righteousness now, we will be blessed. And one day in heaven we will know all of God's goodness and be filled, like when you're stuffed with the best meal ever. Remember, the best life is the blessed life!

Let's pray.

Dear Jesus, thank you for being the best example of living for God and obeying him in every way. Please help us to be hungry and thirsty for knowing God and pleasing him more this week. Amen.

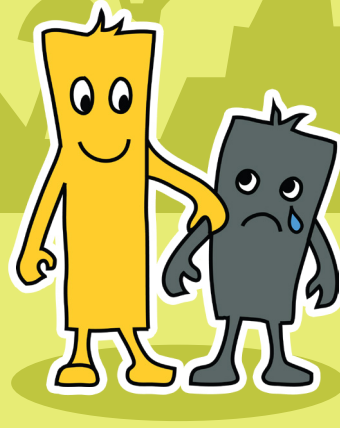


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# TALK 5

## BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

Matthew 5:7



### BIG IDEA

As God has shown us surprising mercy, so we show mercy to those in need.



### FAITH IN KIDS LOOKS LIKE

Children who help others without looking for friendship or reward.

### You will need...

- ▶ An adult size jumper that looks like a primary school jumper (use the same jumper throughout the series so you can add the character pictures to it)
- ▶ A badge/picture of the 'Merciful' character to attach to the jumper
- ▶ Backpack
- ▶ A large piece of card with 'Friend' written on it
- ▶ A large piece of card with 'Enemy' written on it
- ▶ A large piece of card with 'Jesus' written on it
- ▶ 2 adult volunteers to act (One to be the 'Hurt man' and one to act as the rest of the characters - use different hats/wigs/T-shirts to show they are different characters. Or you could ask more people to be involved.)

### Make PowerPoint slides of the following...

- ▶ The full set of Beatitude character illustrations
- ▶ Matthew 5:7 and the 'Merciful' character illustration

## SPACE FOR NOTES

## THE STORY

Good morning! My name is... and it's great to be with you this morning. Today, we're going to discuss mercy. Jesus talked about mercy as part of the Beatitudes during his Sermon on the Mount.

**(Slide of the full set of Beatitude character illustrations with titles.)**

The Beatitudes describe Jesus, and people who follow him. When we live this way people can see that we belong to God's family. Remember, it's like we're wearing the same jumper as Jesus. **(Put on the jumper.)**

In Matthew 5:7, Jesus said, 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.'

**(Slide of Matthew 5:7 and Merciful character.)**

Mercy is showing love, kindness and help to someone who is hurting or in need, no matter who they are.

One of the best examples of mercy is Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10. In those days, Samaritans and Jews were big enemies of each other. The story is about a Jewish man who was attacked as he was walking down a road. The robber beat him up, stole his things and left him half-dead on the road.

**(Two volunteers act out the scene. One runs off the scene holding the backpack and one remains, lying on the floor, as the Hurt Man.)**

## SPACE FOR NOTES

This man really needs someone to stop and help him. Oh look! Here comes a Jewish man. When he sees his fellow Jewish man is hurt, I'm sure he'll help him.

**(Hold up the 'Friend' sign as the actor walks on. He sees the Hurt Man, looks in a different direction and continues walking until he is out of the scene.)**

Oh...he just walked past him. He didn't even stop to ask if he was ok. No mercy!

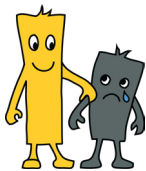
Here comes another Jewish man, I'm sure *he'll* stop to help the man.

**(Hold up the 'Friend' sign as the actor walks on. He stops, peers at the Hurt Man and then looks around to check that no-one has seen him before he walks off without helping.)**

Oh no! He's walking away too. No mercy! Will anyone have mercy on this man? Phew, here comes someone else. Oh...he's a Samaritan. He won't stop - this man is his enemy.

**(Hold up the 'Enemy' sign as the actor walks on. He stops at the Hurt Man, helps him up and walks him off the scene.)**

I can't believe what I'm seeing - the man is helping his enemy. This is mercy. He took him to get help and he even paid all of the bills for him to get looked after. Wow! That man had no reason to help his enemy, he did it because he was merciful.



## SPACE FOR NOTES

Jesus told this story to show us what mercy looks like - it's about helping people in need even if they're our enemies. That's what Jesus did for us. We're all sinners and that makes us enemies with God.

**(Hurt Man actor comes to the front and holds up the 'Enemy' sign.)**

Like the hurt Jewish man - we need to be saved. As God's enemies, we would expect him to take one look at us and to keep walking. But, the gloriously good news is that he didn't do that. Instead, he showed us mercy. He sent his son Jesus to save us even though we don't deserve it. Jesus died and was punished for our sin because he's so merciful and loving. Jesus is our real life Good Samaritan.

**(Actor walks on holding a 'Jesus' sign. He walks up to the 'Enemy', puts an arm around his shoulder and leads him off the scene.)**

As people in God's family, we help anyone who needs help. It's not always easy to do this. Sometimes our enemies will need help and we won't want to show them mercy. But we do it, because God has been so merciful to us. We were his enemies but he loved us and saved us.

Let's talk about a few ways that we show true mercy to others like Jesus says:



## SPACE FOR NOTES

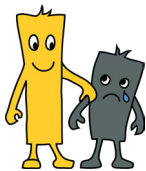
- ▶ When someone at school needs help to find their lost ball, you help them to look for it even if it means you miss playtime. It's not always easy to do that. Remember that you can ask Jesus to help you. You can pray, 'Wow, Jesus you showed me so much kindness when you saved me! Please help me to be kind even when it means I miss out on something I enjoy!'
- ▶ When you're on the sports field and the child who is always mean to you gets hurt, you can be merciful by going to help them. When it's hard to do because they're your enemy then ask Jesus to help you. You can pray, 'Wow! Jesus, you saved my life when I was your enemy. Please help me to be kind to my enemy!'

**(Slide of Matthew 5:7 and Merciful character.)**

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy!'

**(Attach the Merciful character badge/picture to the jumper you are wearing.)**

Jesus promises that the merciful will receive mercy. Jesus was amazingly merciful to us on the cross, and he still shows us mercy every day of our lives. Being a merciful person is a great way to show that you are part of God's family. What a blessing it is to show God's love and mercy to others. Remember, the best life is the blessed life!

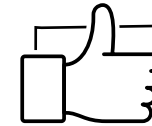


THE **BEST LIFE** IS THE  
**BLESSED LIFE**

## SPACE FOR NOTES

Let's pray.

Dear Jesus, thank you for showing us surprising mercy by dying for our sins on the cross. Please help us follow your example this week and show mercy to others. Amen.

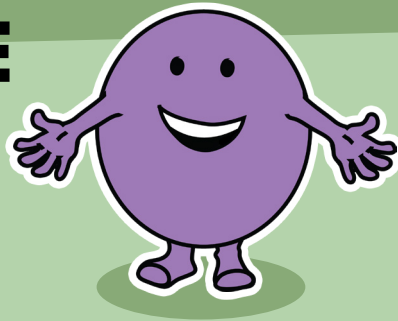


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## TALK 6

# BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART

Matthew 5:8



### BIG IDEA

A pure heart means loving Jesus so much that we want to be more like him.



### FAITH IN KIDS LOOKS LIKE

Children who want to become more like Jesus while they wait to see him face to face.

### You will need...

- ▶ A Bible
- ▶ An adult size jumper that looks like a primary school jumper (use the same jumper throughout the series so you can add the character pictures to it)
- ▶ A badge/picture of the 'Pure in heart' character to attach to the jumper
- ▶ White T-shirt covered in dirt and stains
- ▶ Clean white T-shirt
- ▶ Glass of dirty water
- ▶ Glass of clean water
- ▶ An adult volunteer to offer you the glasses of water

### Make PowerPoint slides of the following...

- ▶ The full set of Beatitude character illustrations
- ▶ Matthew 5:8 and the 'Pure in heart' character illustration

## SPACE FOR NOTES

## THE STORY

Good morning! I'm...

**(Slide of the full set of Beatitude character illustrations with titles.)**

We are learning about the Beatitudes, which are sayings that Jesus taught. They're in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapter 5.

The Beatitudes describe Jesus, and people who follow him. When we live this way, people can see that we belong to God's family. Remember, it's like we're wearing the same jumper as Jesus.

**(Put on the jumper.)**

Today, we're talking about the sixth Beatitude: 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God!'

**(Slide of Matthew 5:8 and Pure in Heart character.)**

Hmmm, to understand what 'pure in heart' means, we first need to understand what 'pure' means. Pure means being free from any dirt and messy stuff. Let me explain...

**(Hold up a dirty T-shirt with lots of stains on it.)**

Is this pure? **(Let the audience respond.)**

No, definitely not! It has been polluted with lots of dirty stuff. Now, compare it to this...

**(Hold up a clean white T-shirt.)**

## SPACE FOR NOTES

Is this pure? **(Let the audience respond.)**

Yes! It is free of dirt and mess.

Jesus wants us to be pure in heart, that means to be free from sin. Sin is disobeying God and it's like spiritual mess that pollutes our hearts. The Bible says each of us has a sinful heart. Our hearts are like this T-shirt, messy and impure.

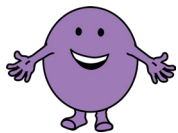
**(Take off the jumper and put on the dirty T-shirt.)**

This is a problem! We were made to love God perfectly and more than anything else. But we don't because we have messy sinful hearts.

Only Jesus has ever loved God perfectly. He always obeyed God and his heart was perfectly free from sin. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to forgive our sins. When we trust in Jesus, God welcomes us into his family and says, 'When I look at you, I see my Son's pure heart!' **(Put the clean white T-shirt over the dirty T-shirt.)**

Even after trusting in Jesus, we still sometimes sin. Our hearts will never be fully pure until we reach heaven. **(Pull up the clean, white T-shirt briefly to reveal the dirty, stained one.)**

When we sin, we can ask God to forgive us. And he always will because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Over time, the Holy Spirit slowly changes our hearts. He helps us to see that living God's way is so much better. He helps us to choose what is pure instead of choosing to sin.



## SPACE FOR NOTES

It's like being offered a choice between dirty and clean water to drink.

**(Have an adult helper offer you a glass of dirty water, which you refuse.)**

Yuck! This water is dirty and full of mess and muck. It looks like my old heart that was a mess with sin. I DON'T want to drink this.

**(The helper offers you a glass of clean water, which you accept.)**

Much better! This water is beautiful and free from dirt. It looks like my new heart from Jesus that is clean and pure. I DO want to drink this.

**(Take a big slug of water.)**

As members of God's family, we want to show our love for Jesus by being pure in heart. We want to choose what is better, being obedient to him instead of choosing to sin.

So, when I accidentally break mum's favourite mug, I have a choice between having a mucky heart moment and lying **(pull up the clean, white T-shirt briefly to reveal the dirty, stained one)** or I can have a pure in heart moment and tell the truth. My clean T-shirt reminds me of Jesus and what he is like. He is full of truth and I want to be like him. I can see that telling the truth matches my clean and pure T-shirt; it's the better choice!

## SPACE FOR NOTES

Or, when my teacher keeps asking me to stop talking while he is teaching, I have a choice between having a mucky heart moment and ignoring him (**pull up the clean, white T-shirt briefly to reveal the dirty, stained one**) or I can have a pure in heart moment and obey my teacher. My clean T-shirt reminds me that I have a new heart that can be more and more like Jesus. He was always obedient and treated people with respect. Obeying my teacher is the choice that matches my clean and pure T-shirt; it's the better choice!

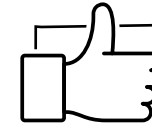
**(Slide of Matthew 5:8 and Pure in Heart character.)**

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.'

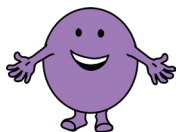
**(Attach the Pure in Heart character badge/ picture to the jumper and hold it up or put it on.)**

Jesus promises that those with hearts who love him will see God. Wow! One day, all of us whose hearts have been made pure by Jesus will get to see God face to face forever in heaven. That's what family members do. They talk to each other and enjoy one another's company. What a blessing that will be. Remember, the best life is the blessed life!

Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank you for being perfect and pure in everything you did. Please help us to have pure hearts that love to choose what is obedient and pleasing to you. Amen.



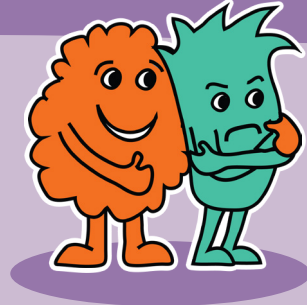
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## TALK 7

# BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

Matthew 5:9



### BIG IDEA

Real peace with others comes as we put others first, which can only happen when we have peace with God.



### FAITH IN KIDS LOOKS LIKE

Children who show their family likeness to Jesus by putting others first.

### You will need...

- ▶ A Bible
- ▶ An adult size jumper that looks like a primary school jumper (use the same jumper throughout the series so you can add the character pictures to it)
- ▶ A badge/picture of the 'Peacemakers' character to attach to the jumper
- ▶ Two adult helpers
- ▶ A large piece of cake - place the cake on a table with a knife to cut it
- ▶ A sign with 'What's good for us?' and the Peacemaker character on it

### Make PowerPoint slides of the following...

- ▶ The full set of Beatitude character illustrations
- ▶ Matthew 5:9 and the 'Peacemakers' character illustration

## SPACE FOR NOTES

## THE STORY

Good morning! I'm...

(Slide of the full set of Beatitude character illustrations with titles.)

We are learning about the Beatitudes, which are sayings that Jesus taught. They're in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapter 5.

The Beatitudes describe Jesus, and people who follow him. When we live this way, people can see that we belong to God's family. Remember, it's like we're wearing the same jumper as Jesus.

(Put on the jumper.)

Today, we're talking about the seventh Beatitude: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God!'

(Slide of Matthew 5:9 and Peacemakers character.)

What does it mean to be a peacemaker? A peacemaker shows love when someone hurts them. They use loving words like, 'I forgive you' instead of 'I'll get you back for this!' when someone treats them badly. Or they keep their mouth closed and don't call someone a mean name when it's been done to them. If another child hits them, a peacemaker doesn't hit back. As peacemakers, we don't make war with other people, we make peace and bless others. Being a peacemaker is putting others before yourself and wanting what's best for others.

## SPACE FOR NOTES

Look at what happens when we aren't peacemakers...

**(Two volunteers come up and act out the scene...)**

We've got two siblings and one piece of cake.

**(They both see the cake on the table at the same time. They run towards it and grab it but one gets to it first. The one without the cake huffs and goes off looking cross.)**

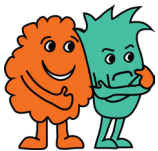
Oh no. When we only think 'What's good for me?' it separates us from others and makes others sad or cross.

Let's see what a peacemaker could do...

**(The person with the cake cuts it in half and goes to the cross person. The peacemaker puts their arm around the cross person, copying the Peacemaker character picture, and hands over a slice of cake. They then happily eat the cake side by side.)**

Sharing the cake meant they got to enjoy it together. The peacemaker thought 'What's good for us?' not 'What's good for me?' **(Hold up the sign.)**

Sometimes we need to help other people make peace, like when 2 friends are fighting. We can help them work out what's good for both of them instead of thinking 'What's good for me?'. **(Hold up the sign.)**



## SPACE FOR NOTES

Sometimes being a peacemaker means speaking up for others. If we see someone being bullied at school and stay quiet, that's not being a peacemaker - that's thinking 'What's good for me?'.  
**(Hold up the sign.)**

But if we stick up for the person being bullied and encourage others to be kind, that's bringing peace to the situation. **(Hold up the sign.)**

Like the rest of the Beatitudes, being a peacemaker doesn't come naturally. We need God's help. We're all sinners, and sometimes we want to argue back, fight, lie and get our own way. We need God's help to choose to be a peacemaker who puts others first and shows love to them.

That's the way Jesus lived. He always chose to be a peacemaker. He always chose what was best for others. When Jesus died on the cross for our sin, he was being the ultimate peacemaker. He made peace between us and God.

When we are peacemakers, we get to show others a bit of what Jesus is like. So...

- ▶ Next time you're arguing with your brother or sister, remember how Jesus has made peace between us and God, so that you'll do what's good for both of you.
- ▶ Next time your friends at school are fighting, remember that you've been called to be a peacemaker. You can help them to do what's good for both of them.

## SPACE FOR NOTES

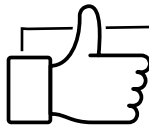
(Slide of Matthew 5:9 and Peacemakers character.)

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.'

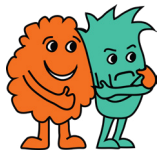
(Attach the Peacemaker character badge/picture to the jumper you are wearing.)

Jesus promises us that peacemakers will be called children of God. Wow! We're not just God's friends, we're actually in his family - God is our heavenly Father! It's a great blessing to have peace with God and bring peace to others. Remember, the best life is the blessed life!

Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank you for making it possible for us to have peace with God and be peacemakers with others. Help us show love, kindness and peace toward everyone we see this week. Amen.



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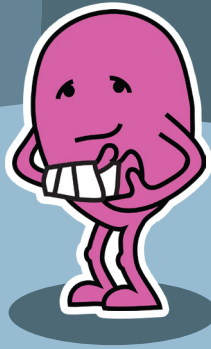


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**BLESSED LIFE**

## TALK 8

# BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED

Matthew 5:10



### BIG IDEA

Living like Jesus will lead to persecution because we will be different from the world.



### FAITH IN KIDS LOOKS LIKE

Children who willingly accept mockery, remembering those around the world who experience far worse for following Jesus.

### You will need...

- ▶ A Bible
- ▶ An adult size jumper that looks like a primary school jumper (use the same jumper throughout the series so you can add the character pictures to it)
- ▶ A badge/picture of the 'Persecuted' character to attach to the jumper
- ▶ Several adult volunteers to act out scenes - all wearing the same colour jumper as each other but different to the 'Beatitudes' jumper the teacher is wearing

### Make PowerPoint slides of the following...

- ▶ The full set of Beatitude character illustrations
- ▶ Matthew 5:10 and the 'Persecuted' character illustration

## SPACE FOR NOTES

## THE STORY

Good morning! I'm...

(Slide of the full set of Beatitude character illustrations with titles.)

We've been learning about the Beatitudes, which are sayings that Jesus taught. They describe Jesus, and people who follow him. When we live this way people can see that we belong to God's family. Remember, it's like we're wearing the same jumper as Jesus. **(Put on the jumper.)**

Today's Beatitude is the eighth and final one. You can read all of them in Matthew chapter 5 in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Today's reads: 'Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

(Slide of Matthew 5:10 and Persecuted character.)

What is this persecution Jesus is talking about? It's when other people treat us badly for living like Jesus. That doesn't mean that every time something bad happens to us it's persecution. If someone treats us badly because we were being annoying or sinful, that's not persecution. That's just us making bad choices! Persecution is when we are treated badly because of our faith in Jesus.

Maybe something like this has happened to you before...



## SPACE FOR NOTES

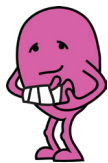
(Have the adult volunteers come up to act out the following while you speak.):

- ▶ You invite a friend to church and they tease you for going.
- ▶ During a science lesson, you say you believe that God created all things and people look down on you.
- ▶ You stick up for a friend who is being bullied because it's what Jesus would do. Then the bully makes fun of you, too.

When we live like Jesus, the way we think, act and speak will look different to people who aren't living for Jesus. It's like they're wearing a different jumper to Jesus. (Point to your jumper and the volunteers' jumpers.)

Some people will see the difference and want to join God's family, too. Others may see the difference and tease us for it.

Nobody wants to be teased! But if we are truly part of God's family, we'll still choose to live Jesus' way. When we're being persecuted we still want to act like Jesus. That's the time to choose to be a peacemaker instead of fighting back. We don't take the jumper off so we blend in. We keep it on and keep doing what Jesus would do. We might get treated badly, but Jesus said this would happen to those who love him. He knows, he loves us, and he gives us the strength to keep going.



## SPACE FOR NOTES

So...

- ▶ If people exclude you or make you feel like an outsider for living for Jesus, you can remember that you belong in God's family and will always be welcomed in the kingdom of heaven.
- ▶ If you're teased or hurt for speaking about Jesus, you can remember that Jesus is with you and knows you are speaking truth for him. He's totally in control and will help you to keep being bold for him.
- ▶ You can pray for people in God's family who live in countries where they are badly hurt or put in prison for believing in Jesus. You can thank God for them and how they encourage us with the way they trust Jesus even when they're persecuted. You can ask God to help them to keep living his way and to keep speaking about Jesus. And you can pray for the missionaries who go to those countries to tell others about Jesus.

Many brave men and women in history have suffered because they are part of God's family. But our greatest example to follow when being persecuted is Jesus. Although Jesus lived a perfect life, he was treated badly by people who didn't believe in him. Jesus was mocked, beaten and put on a cross to die. He suffered all this for you and me.

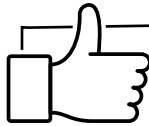
## SPACE FOR NOTES

(Slide of Matthew 5:10 and Persecuted character.)

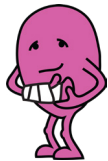
'Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' (Attach the Persecuted character badge/picture to the jumper you are wearing.)

Jesus said if people treat us badly because we follow him, the kingdom of heaven will be ours. That's his way of saying we will be with him forever. We also have Jesus with us now. He taught the Beatitudes to help us to live his way and show others what he is like. Jesus will help us to live the blessed life because it's the best life!

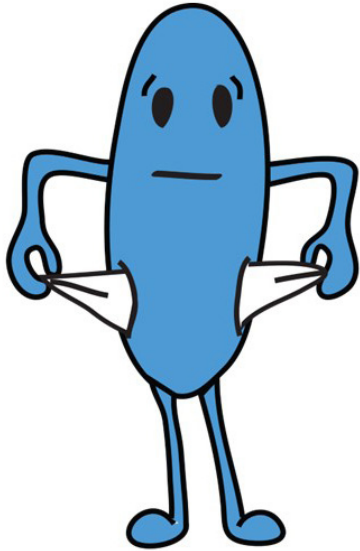
Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank you for being persecuted for us. Please help us to keep living your way and trusting you when we are persecuted. Amen.



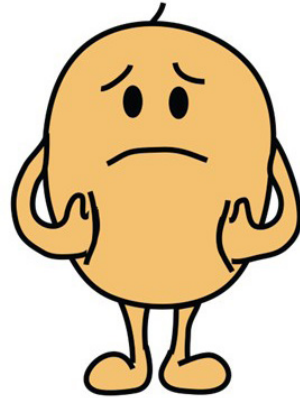
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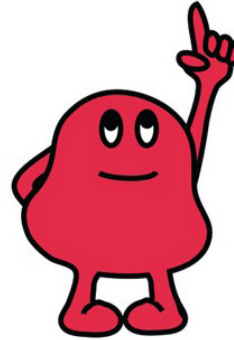
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THE **BLESSED LIFE**



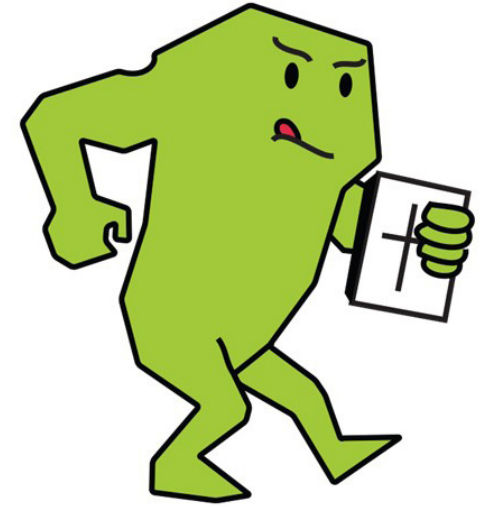
**POOR IN SPIRIT**



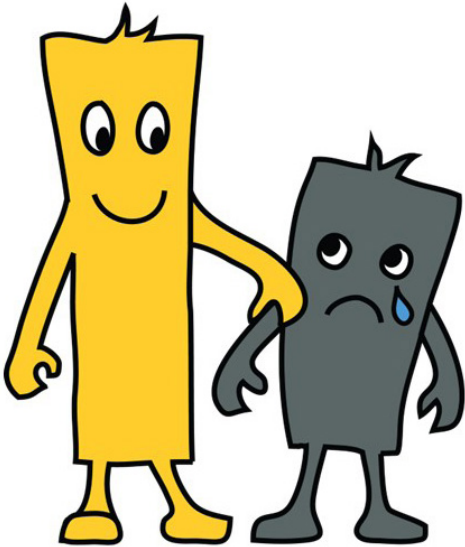
**MOURNING**



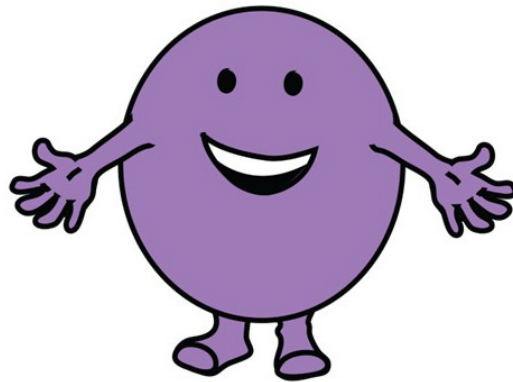
**MEEK**



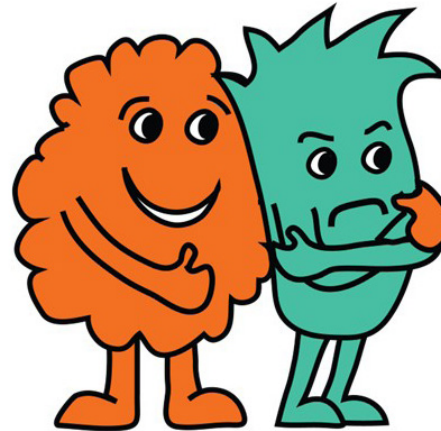
**HUNGRY AND THIRSTY  
FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS**



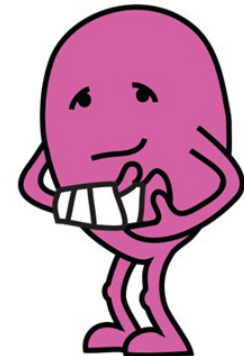
**MERCIFUL**



**PURE IN HEART**



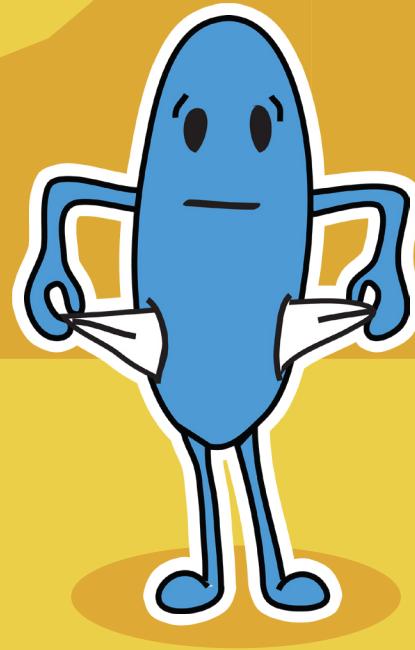
**PEACEMAKERS**



**PERSECUTED**

THE **BEST LIFE** IS  
THE **BLESSED LIFE**

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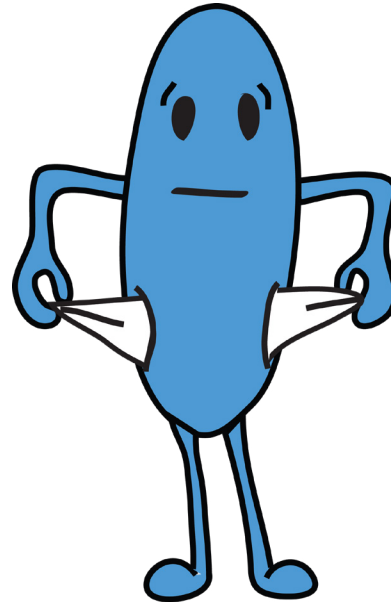
# **BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT**

**"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."**

**MATTHEW 5:3**

**THE BEST LIFE IS  
THE BLESSED LIFE**

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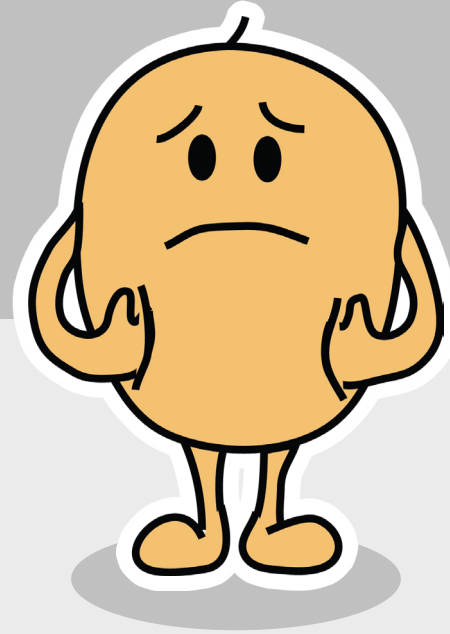
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**MATTHEW 5:3**

THE **BEST LIFE** IS  
THE **BLESSED LIFE**

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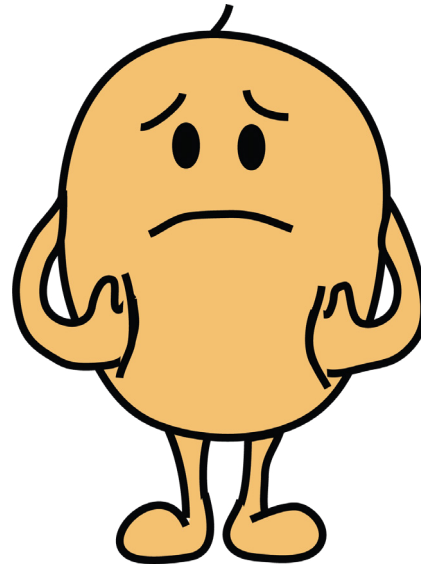
# **BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN**

**"Blessed are those who mourn,  
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# **BLESSED ARE THE MEEK**

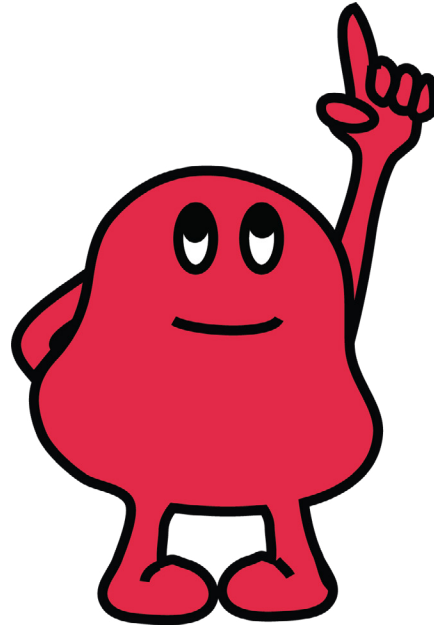
**"Blessed are the meek,  
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# **BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for  
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**MATTHEW 5:6**

THE **BEST LIFE** IS  
THE **BLESSED LIFE**

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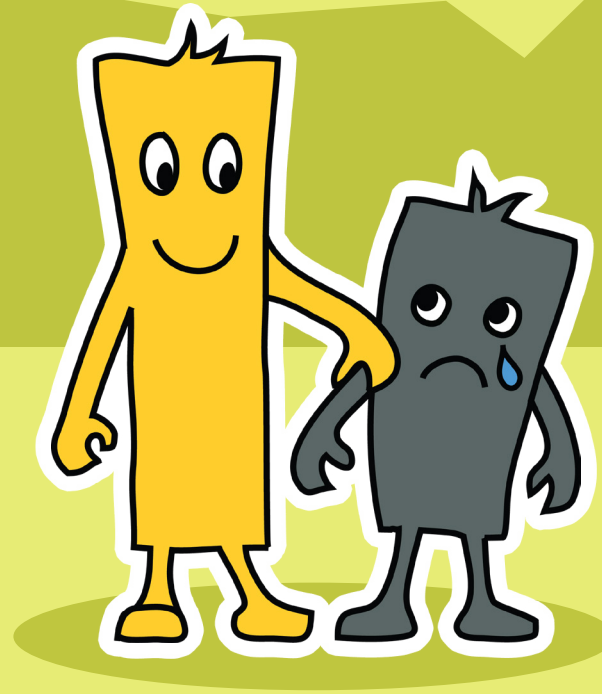
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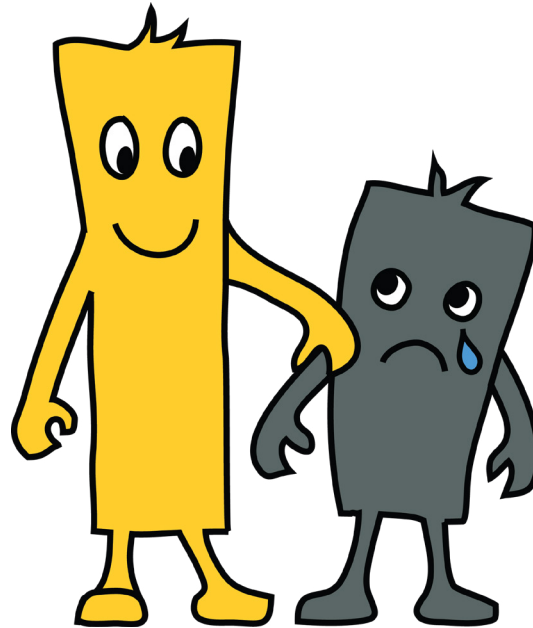
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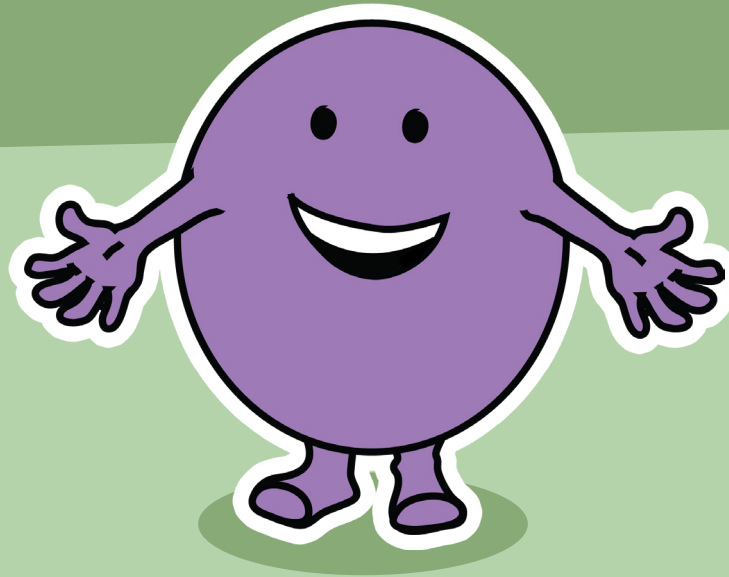
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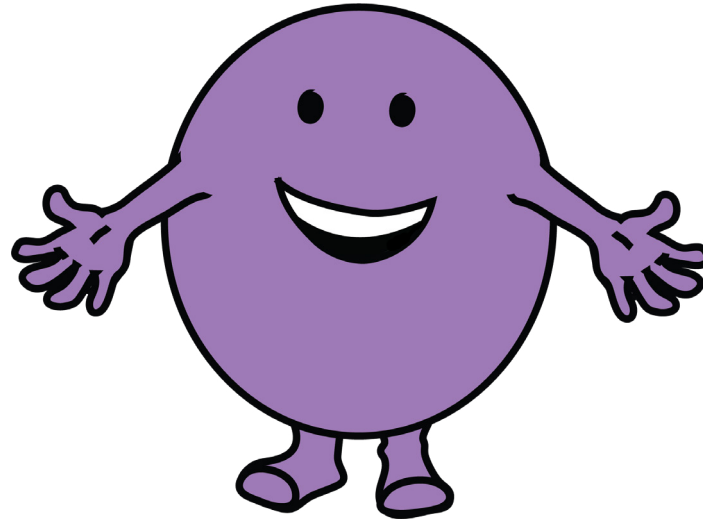
# **BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART**

**"Blessed are the pure in heart,  
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**MATTHEW 5:8**

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THE BLESSED LIFE**

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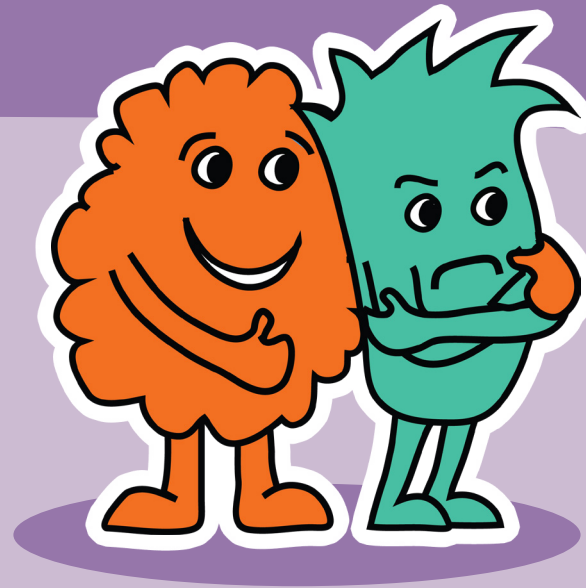
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# **BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS**

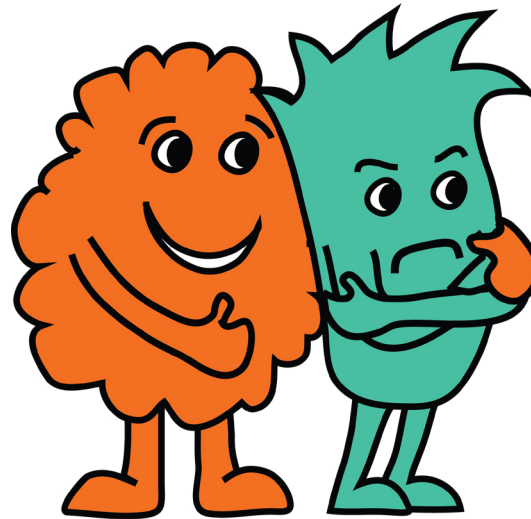
**"Blessed are the peacemakers,  
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**MATTHEW 5:9**



THE **BEST LIFE** IS  
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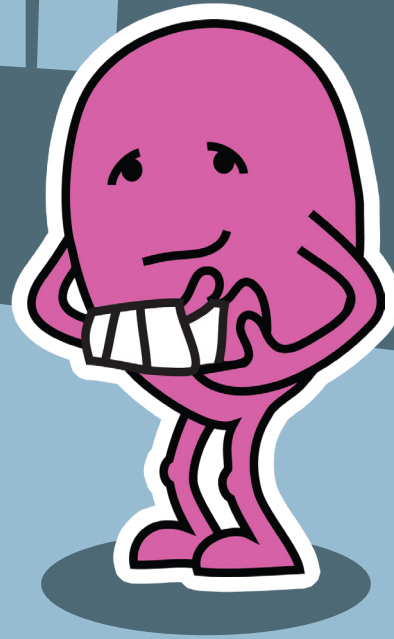
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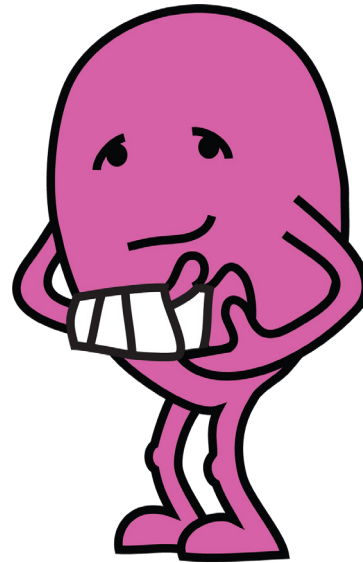
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**"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of  
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