
SERMON ON THE MOUNT

UNIT OVERVIEW

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus presents God's formula for success and happiness in this life. He gives us simple directions for obtaining happiness and spiritual fulfillment in this lifetime, and, ultimately, salvation.

This unit is designed to help the students understand what is truly valuable in God's eyes. Lessons will describe God's directions for happiness in our lives, and will help the students to understand that a deep, trusting relationship with him is what brings us true security and joy in our lives.

UNIT GOALS

- The students will understand that because of his great love for us, God has specific direction for our lives.
- The students will become familiar with the Beatitudes and will apply these to their own lives.
- The students will learn God always answers our prayers in ways that are the best for us, and they will look for evidence of this in their own lives.

UNIT CONTENTS

LESSON 1 FATHER KNOWS BEST

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 5:8

Many people think they will find happiness in material goods, power, money, relationships or education. In the Beatitudes, Jesus shows us that happiness is the result of having the desire and mindset to please God first. The students will come to realize that happiness comes as we live our lives according to God's will.

LESSON 2 CHARACTER NOT COSTUME

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 5:16

We can all put on "masks" that hide our true selves from others, presenting an image that we think will impress those around us. Fortunately, God sees us for who we truly are, and loves us regardless. This lesson shows the preteens that they must live open and honest lives that are dedicated to God.

LESSON 3 THE SECRET OF SUCCESS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 6:1

Our greatest goal in life should be to please God. However, the world's values and ideals can cause us to be motivated by the praise and rewards of men. Jesus teaches us that our motivation for everything we do must be to bring glory to God, not ourselves.

LESSON 4 MOTHS, RUST AND THIEVES

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 6:20

In a country that is overtaken with materialism, our preteens need to adjust their eyes and their focus toward understanding value in God's eyes.

LESSON 5 HALLELUJAH ANYWAY

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 6:33

God sees and loves us as individuals and promises to meet all our needs, no matter how small they seem to us. Nothing in our lives is unimportant or trivial to God, and he will take care of us if we trust in him.

LESSON 6 JUDGING OTHERS

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 7:1-2

Jesus condemns our judgmental attitudes and warns that we must deal with our own sins and character flaws before we can try to change others.

LESSON 7 ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 7:7

God's love for us is amazing. He knows all our fears and our needs, and he always answers our prayers in ways that are best for our lives. God always answers prayers...either "yes," "no" or "wait."

LESSON 8 TIME WILL TELL

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 7:21

Our nature is to look for the easiest path to our destination. Jesus tells us that spiritually, our lives cannot follow this guideline. We must plan carefully, take the more difficult path, and build a solid foundation for our lives based on the word of God.



Preteens

Dear Parent,

On the reverse side of this page you will find an outline and description of the lessons which comprise this unit. The weekly Scripture Memory Verse is listed with each lesson synopsis.

As part of the class experience, students are given a weekly challenge. Below is a list of the challenges given with the lessons:

LESSON 1 FATHER KNOWS BEST

Weekly Challenge: Think about one of the Beatitudes that you would like to practice in your own life this week. On the back of your Scripture Memory sheet, write a commitment explaining which beatitude you will be working on and how you will go about putting it into practice in your life. Share your victory with the class next week.

LESSON 2 CHARACTER NOT COSTUME

Weekly Challenge: Choose your favorite "But I tell you..." passage (Matthew 5). Think about how you could apply this in your own life and practice doing it this week. Share your victory with the class next week.

LESSON 3 THE SECRET OF SUCCESS

Weekly Challenge: Pray about and put into practice your plan of secret service. Share your victory with the class next week (but keep your specific act of service a secret if you can).

LESSON 4 MOTHS, RUST AND THIEVES

Weekly Challenge: This week, carry out your decision to give up an earthly treasure and replace it with a heavenly treasure. If you need suggestions or encouragement, call your teacher or a classmate.

LESSON 5 HALLELUJAH ANYWAY

Weekly Challenge: Practice being worry-free! You and your partner should choose one thing not to worry about this week and then challenge and encourage each other throughout the week.

LESSON 6 JUDGING OTHERS

Weekly Challenge: This week, make friends with someone you have judged in the past. Get to know them, and let them get to know you.

LESSON 7 ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

Weekly Challenge: This week, ask, seek and knock for God to change a specific character trait in your life. Be desperate in your prayers, get advice, and see how God answers your request.

LESSON 8 TIME WILL TELL

Weekly Challenge: This week, walk the narrow road and begin to put God's word into practice in a situation in which you usually do your own will before God's. Share your victory with the class next week.

Your active involvement outside the classroom is essential and will truly make the Kingdom Kids Curriculum a great success for your child. Here are some suggested ways for you to reinforce these lessons at home:

- The emphasis of this unit is on the heart, and not the outward actions. Do something special with just your preteen (no other siblings around) and draw out his or her heart—find out how your preteen is feeling about life. Listen without correcting until you believe he or she is finished. Then give careful input and direction. Make sure your preteen knows that you believe in him or her.
- For family devo, talk about the Sermon on the Mount. Help your child to envision what it would have been like to be sitting on the grass and listening to Jesus. Have everyone else close their eyes while one person reads the Beatitudes. Have your preteen share with the family what he/she has learned about the Beatitudes.
- Review the memory verse before bedtime, at dinner or while riding in the car.
- Ask your child to share with you how he or she is doing with the weekly challenge. Give encouragement or direction as needed.
- Don't forget to encourage your child as he or she uses the Preteen Quiet Time Book that gives daily support for the lesson of the week.

We look forward to being partners with you as we help *Generation Next* to be zealous and effective as they move forward the kingdom of our God.

Thank you,

Your child's teachers