

The Beatitudes: A Glimpse of God's Kingdom

A set of prayer stations for schools around the values in the beatitudes. Originally created for Thy Kingdom Come 2018

Jesus gave a glimpse of what God's Kingdom will be like in a Bible passage known as the beatitudes. Many schools have a set of school values which permeate the across the life of their school. In the beatitudes Jesus gave a picture of what life in the kingdom of God will be like. These phrases can be distilled into values. Values that permeate the kingdom of God. This is a set of prayer stations around these values of God's kingdom.

Bible verse	Value	Prayer Station
Those people who know they have great spiritual needs are happy. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.	Hope	Relying on God's Help
Those who are sad now are happy. God will comfort them.	Compassion	God's Comfort When We Are sad
Those who are humble are happy. The earth will belong to them.	Humility	Putting Others First
Those who want to do right more than anything else are happy. God will fully satisfy them.	Justice	Standing Up For Those Who Are Being Treated Unfairly
Those who give mercy to others are happy. Mercy will be given to them.	Forgiveness	Forgiving Others When They Hurt You.
Those who are pure in their thinking are happy. They will be with God.	Wisdom	Thinking In God's Way
Those who work to bring peace are happy. God will call them his children.	Peace	Bringing Peace
Those who are treated badly for doing good are happy. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.	Resilience	Those Who Are Treated Badly for Doing Good.
Rejoice and be glad. You have a great reward waiting for you in heaven.	Joy	The Kingdom Of Heaven



Hope - Relying On God's Help When We Are Worried

Those people who know they have great spiritual needs are happy.
The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

This activity offers pupils the opportunity to think and pray about things that worry them and ask for God's help.

Equipment:

- This activity needs to be set up away from the quieter prayer stations with space around it.
- A set of skittles, the school may well have these. *These could be made from 1litre milk cartons filled with sand or water*
- Labels on the skittles. *Ideas below*
- Quoits with coloured tape stuck on to look like life rings, the school may well have these. *These could be made from polystyrene circles or even paper plates with the centre cut out.*
- Life ring cards – one per pupil. *Template below*
- Pencils
- A large attractive bowl or basket



Instructions:

This activity requires adult supervision for the practical element, and also adult support if pupils wish to talk about their worries.

Stick the labels on the skittles, and lay them out on the floor with plenty of room around them. The quoits are meant to look like a life ring. God can help us with the things that worry us, like a life ring rescues people.

Pupils read the worries written on the skittles and think about things that worry them.

Pupils take a quoit and throw it over the worry that they want God's help with.

Or you could not have skittles but simply have cards with the worries written on and place the life rings on the cards.

They could then write or draw their worry on a card and put the card into the bowl.

Adults should be aware that pupils may want to talk about their worries. This activity could lead to some safeguarding issues being disclosed. Adults need to be clear about the safeguarding procedure agreed with the school for the Prayer Space.

Compassion - God's Comfort When We Are Sad

Those who are sad now, will be happy. God will comfort them.

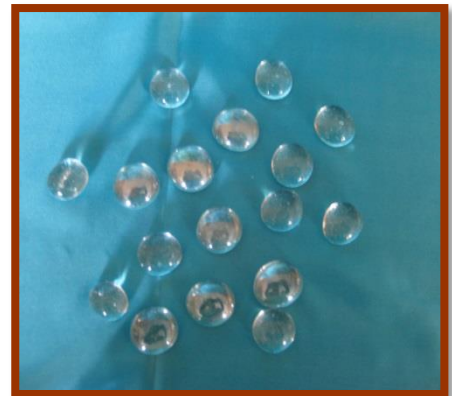
This activity offers pupils an opportunity to think about and /or pray for people they know who are sad or unwell.

Equipment:

- A quieter corner of the prayer space
- A plain table cloth
- Glass nuggets the type sold for flower arranging in clear or blue

These are widely available from shops such as Poundland, garden centres and online.

- A plain flat dish



Instructions:

This activity offers pupils an opportunity to think about and /or pray for people they know who are sad or unwell. This may include people and pets that have died.

Some pupils may want to reflect on their own feelings of sadness and seek comfort for their own sadness. Team members should be alert to the fact that the school may not be aware of illness or bereavement within the pupil's family. Also that the death or illness of a pet is often important for school aged pupils.

Scatter the glass nuggets on the table cloth around the dish.

Invite pupils to hold a glass nugget and think about anyone they know who is ill or sad. It may be that they themselves are ill or sad.

They do not have to say who that person is, but if they would like to tell the team member about that person they are welcome to do so.

While they hold it think about that person and if they would like to say a prayer for them. They could ask God to comfort them and help them to know that he cares about them.

Then put the glass nugget in the dish as assign of their thought or prayer.

Humility - Putting Others First

Those who are humble are happy. The earth will belong to them.

This activity offer pupils the opportunity to think and pray about how they can put others' needs before their own.

Equipment:

- A display of cleaning tools. Such as washing up bowl, washing up brush, car washing sponge, duster etc. A toilet brush (brand new) elicits quite a response! *These need to be new or very clean with no cleaning products included*
- A display of pictures of people doing unpleasant jobs and helping others.
- Several sets of action cards.
- You could have lots of small action cards for pupils to take away as a reminder.



Instructions:

Look at the cleaning materials and the pictures of people doing some of the dirty and smelly jobs. Look at the pictures of people helping others.

For EYFS you could put out some plastic plates and cups for them to wash up.

Explain to the pupils that humility is thinking that others' needs are more important than ours. Not pushing ourselves to the front of a line, or always being the person who chooses the game, or video or activity. Instead helping other people to feel good about themselves, helping others to feel special.

Look at the ideas of things that you could do to put others first to make them feel special. Choose one of those ideas to go and do today or tomorrow.

It maybe something you can do at home, at school or in your community.

The adults should be aware that some pupils may have very low self-esteem and need encouragement that they themselves are valued.

Justice – Standing Up For Those Who Are Being Treated Unfairly

Those who want to do right more than anything else are happy.

God will fully satisfy them.

This activity offer pupils the opportunity to think and pray about issues of fairness and social justice.

Equipment:

- Set of balance scales. The bucket balance scales that can be found in infant classes are ideal
- Some blocks or weights with injustices written or stuck on them. Examples provided
- Small pieces of paper and pens
- Pictures and case studies of social justice issues here are some places to find these. Choose case studies to suit the age of the pupils.



[Tearfund](#)

[Christian Aid](#)

[Traidcraft](#)

[Hope.co.uk](#) Their 'Share a pencil' day falls on 23rd May, you may wish to link to this event.

[Unicef Rights of the Child](#)

Instructions:

For this activity you need 2 or 3 examples of social justice issues. There are some suggested websites which contain examples you could use. Consider the age of the pupils when choosing case studies. Some of these websites include short videos which may be useful as part of this prayer station.

Sometimes things are not fair. Maybe you have felt that you have been treated less well than someone else in your family or class. Encourage the pupils about what they have felt was unfair. Some people in the world are treated unfairly in a way that makes a big difference to their lives. Have a look at some of the examples on this display. How do the pupils feel about what they have seen?

Pupils may need the concept of scales as an image of justice explained to them.

Look at the scales, one side is weighted down with things that aren't fair. On a piece of paper write a thought, prayer or action that you will do to help bring fairness to a situation. This could be local or global. There are some ideas which could be used as thought starters below.

With very young children this will be about treating people they know fairly. Will their papers balance the scales of injustice?

Forgiveness - Forgiving Others When They Hurt You

Those who give mercy to others are happy. Mercy will be given to them...

This activity offers pupils the opportunity to think about people who have hurt them, then to forgive them and let those feeling of hurt go.

Equipment:

- Large clear vases filled with water
- Soluble vitamin tablets broken in half. *If you can source lemon or lime flavour you will need to change the water less frequently than with the orange ones!*



Instructions:

This activity gives the pupils the opportunity to think about people who have hurt them. To forgive them and let that hurt go.

It is best to have team member near this activity to ensure that the pupils only put in one piece of tablet at a time and in case any pupils wish to share their hurts.

Sometimes people do and say things to hurt us on purpose.

Sometimes they don't mean it, but it hurts anyway.

Has anyone hurt you?

It can be difficult when someone has hurt you. Forgiveness is hard, particularly if the hurt is repetitive behaviour or abuse.

If you want to, take a vitamin tablet and think about those hurt feelings. Then drop it in the water. As it fizzes away let those hurt feelings go, imagine forgiving the person and the hurt disappearing. Encourage the pupils to watch until the tablet has completely dissolved.

As the water changes colour, it's a reminder that actions often have consequences and that the consequences may go on even after the person has been forgiven. Forgiveness itself may need to be an ongoing, conscious process.

You will need to change the water regularly because it becomes difficult to see the fizzing as the tablets dissolve.

Adults should be aware that pupils may want to talk about their hurt feelings. This activity could lead to some safeguarding issues being disclosed, and professional help sought. Adults need to be clear about the safeguarding procedure agreed with the school for the Prayer Space.

Wisdom - Thinking in God's Way

Those who are pure in their thinking are happy. They will be with God....

This activity offer pupils the opportunity to think and pray about their thoughts and attitudes towards other people.

Equipment:

- Heart shaped pieces of paper or Post Its.
- Pens
- A large dish or plate.
- A plain table cloth.
- Small hearts, enough for every pupil to take one. Table confetti works well



Instructions:

Spread the small hearts across the table with the dish in the middle. Put the paper hearts and pens around the edge. You may wish to have some cards with suggestions of positive qualities on the display. See attached ideas.

Encourage the pupils to think about their thoughts and attitudes towards other people. It's hard to think kind thoughts, especially about people we find difficult: God can help us.

We can't be best friends with everyone, that's fine. There are some people who we find it hard to think positive things about. I wonder who that person is for you? It may be someone at home, someone in your family, someone at school or someone that lives near you. Help the pupils to think of just one person: there is no need to name that person out loud or on the heart shaped paper.

Think about that person and try to think of three positive / good things about them. Write those three things on a heart shape and put that shape in the dish. If the pupils are having difficulty draw their attention to the suggestions on the prayer station.

Remind them not to write any names on the heart.

You could ask: I wonder if you feel differently about them now you have thought about the good things about them?

If the pupils would like they can take one of the small hearts to remind them that God can help them to think about other people in His way. You may need to keep an eye on how many hearts they take, or only put a few out at a time. Young children find sparkles very attractive!

Peace - Bringing Peace to the World

Those who work to bring peace are happy. God will call them his children

This activity offers the pupils the opportunity to think about or pray for situations of conflict or war.

Equipment:

- A large world map - *There may well be one in school. If you need to buy one the cheapest source is as a shower curtain sold by several companies online.*
- And / or a globe
- You may wish to include some pictures of places devastated by fighting
- A basket of zips. - *These are expensive to buy individually but can be bought cheaply in bulk online.*
- A cross
- This activity could be set up on the floor



Instructions:

This activity offers pupils an opportunity to think about and /or pray for situation where there is conflict. This may include large scale conflicts or wars. Or it may be conflict between people the pupils know.

Team members should be alert to children wanting to talk about conflict between family members or friends.

Have a basket of unzipped zips available.

Pupils are encouraged to take a zip and as they do it up watch the teeth interlock together. As they pull the two sides together they can think about or pray for a situation of conflict and how the two sides could make peace.

Think about or pray for the people who are trying to bring peace.

When they are ready they can either lay the closed zip on the world map over the place of conflict. Or lay their closed zip at the foot of the cross as a symbol of God bringing peace.

Resilience - Treated Badly for Doing Good

Those who are treated badly for doing good, are happy.

The kingdom of heaven belongs to them

This activity offer pupils the opportunity to think and pray about issues of persecution for standing up for what is right, and also the persecution of religious believers. This activity is not suitable for younger pupils.

Equipment:

- Strips of paper
- Pens
- Stapler or sticky tape to make a paper chain
- Case studies of people who are persecuted, these could be written, in video or an audio account on an MP3 player.

[Amnesty International](#) wide range of international examples
[Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel](#)

EAPPI

[Barnabas Fund](#) Information about the persecuted church

[Open Doors](#) Information about the persecuted church



Instructions:

Choose a few case studies of people who have been persecuted or put themselves at risk for standing up for what is right. Some websites offering possible case studies are given above. Be aware that some come from a particular view point and are not positive about people of other faiths. You may need to think about the wording in these examples.

Pupils will each need one or two strips of paper and a pen. You will need a way of joining the paper to make a chain, stapler or sticky tape.

Is it difficult to do what you believe to be right when other people disagree? Is it difficult to say that you think something is wrong to your friends, your family your teachers?

Encourage the pupils to read, watch or listen to one or two case studies. How does it make them feel? How is that person managing to be resilient through this situation or even persecution?

Some people end up in prison for doing or saying what they think is right.

Write a thought or a prayer for a person you have heard about on the strip of paper and then link it onto the paper chain. The chain reminds us of the way they are being treated for doing or saying the right thing.

Adults should be aware of the sensitivities for any pupils who are refugees or who have fled a situation of bullying or harassment in a previous locality.

Joy - The Kingdom of Heaven

Rejoice and be glad. You have a great reward waiting for you in heaven.

This activity offers pupils an opportunity to think about the good things in the kingdom of heaven.

Equipment:

- A gold or silver table cloth
- Decorate the table with party things such as balloons, streamers, bunting maybe even party poppers
- Rectangles or triangles of different coloured paper.
- Bunting tape. *This is available in 50m reels online*
- Coloured pens
- Staplers or sticky tape



Instructions:

This activity offers pupils an opportunity to think about the good things that God promises in heaven.

You may wish to include a few Bible verses about heaven depending on the pupils. Revelation 21 v 3&4.

What do you like being given as a reward? Do you like being given a sticker, a certificate, a medal, a trophy or words of praise? Encourage the pupils to think about things other than sporting trophies.

If you could live in a perfect place what would it be like?

How would you feel in a perfect place? Take a bit of time to encourage the pupils to consider how they feel.

Christians believe that one day they will be in heaven, God's everlasting kingdom, with Him. What do you think heaven is like? Encourage the pupils to talk about their idea of heaven.

Take a piece of paper and on it draw or write something that makes you joyful. Then staple the flag onto the bunting to make a joyful decoration to put around the school.

Be sensitive to the fact that some may want to talk about relatives who have died. Acknowledge their sadness but in this instance focus on the joy of heaven.