



SPARK

Week 16 – Jesus Teaches Happiness

Week of Feb. 1 Focus:

Jesus went up on a mountainside & began teaching them, saying, "Blessed are ..."

Matthew 5:1-12

After this time together your child will be able to do/know (one or all depending on their age):

- Jesus is teaching us the behaviors that will lead to true happiness.
- We are called to love others just like Jesus did.
- Make the connection between Moses & Jesus: both on a mountain proclaiming laws for our good.

Adult Pre-work (15 min)

- Watch Lesson 16 preparation video at saint-max.org/spark
- Watch [God's Story: Sermon on the Mount](#) (4:30 min)



Opening Prayer

PRAY

+ Merciful God, we come before you today to learn how to live so that we can be truly happy. Help us to love others like Jesus did no matter what other people think. Thank you for _____. We pray for _____. Amen. +

Family Connection

SHARE

Bishop Barron states that ultimately we are all looking for happiness. Can you describe to your child what makes you happy? (I'm betting it involves people!) This desire for happiness can only find its complete fulfillment in ONE person, God.



He further talks about the 4 things of this world that take our attention from God (wealth, power, pleasure and honor) This may seem lofty but can easily be taken to their level by going back to an experience (I know you 've been here!) in the store when they wanted a new toy & are willing to pitch a fit to get it! If they got it, how long did it make them happy for? Or use an example of something that they really wanted but now is forgotten.

We are going to further explore the four senses of study Scripture. This article is an easy read and explains this ancient method of studying scripture in a simple way! The parables are a great place to start practicing with these questions.

[How to Use the Four Senses of Scripture as a Simple Bible Study](#)

LEARN



Read the Bible Story

This story can be found in Matthew 5:1-12; 8:5-13 (Page 56-57 in Picture Bible Stories, Great Adventure Storybook p. 126)

- Do you remember where Jesus was in this story? (*On a mountain side*)
- Do you remember another story of a man on a mountain getting some rules from God? (*Moses, Jesus is showing us that the story continues in Jesus and they are now to look to these things that Jesus is saying that will get them to heaven.*)
- Who was with Jesus on the mountain? (His disciples, lots of people.)
- I wonder what kind of things Jesus tells his followers to do to be happy? (*Be kind, patient, loving, helpful, generous & truthful*)
- I wonder why he didn't tell them to get a bigger house or more stuff? (*Treating people with love is what will get us true happiness.*)

Wondering Questions: I wonder what this Bible story is about? I wonder what God is teaching us through this story? (*Jesus wants us to love people and not things.*)

If you or your child needs to Dig Deeper or watch the story:

Beatitudes - Be Changin' Your Attitude! (9 min) Definitely for older students, but parents you could watch and share what you learn. Excellent example of doing what we *think* is impossible!
The Four Senses of Scripture explained (3 min) Good for older students & adults

LIVE YOUR FAITH

This week as a family



1. What *things* do we love? How do we love people? Which one is most prominent in your family life?
2. Use the Bee - Attitudes craft to help you pick one Beatitude to work on this week. Or use it to 'capture' when your child is demonstrating a specific Beatitude.
3. **Draw a picture or write a sentence or two about anything you learned from this story. (Use an angel bordered Homework Template)**

PRAY + Jesus, you came to teach us how to live truly happy lives. Help us to love people, especially _____ this week. Forgive us for _____. Amen +

Dig Deeper!

The Beatitudes: The Key to Joy by Bishop Baron (6 min) An amazing teacher!

The Catechism Paragraphs 1716-1729

Beatitudes book A free download easy, colorable, practice writing booklet!



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