

9-11 Years:

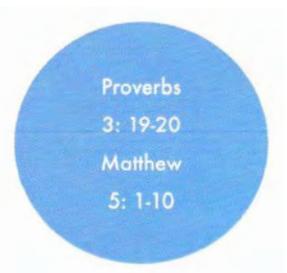
Opening prayer: To welcome students to class and introduce the theme. Keep the prayer simple and easy for the children to learn so that it can be said as a group prayer rather than one that the leader says. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Story:

Start today's bible reading with a short passage from Proverbs.
Proverbs 3: 19-20

Follow this with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 1-10). This is to illustrate the role of Jesus in teaching his followers how to become Christians.



Discussion 1:

Consider the Proverbs passage. What do the words wisdom, understanding and knowledge mean? Ask the students to give examples of each word in a sentence. Why are these words important to us as a society?

Activity 1:

Give each student a piece of paper and ask them to write down the three words, and then write out 2 sentences for each word - for example: By reading the book, John gained a lot of knowledge on how to fix his skateboard.

Discussion 2:

Now move to the Beatitudes. What does each of these mean? Jesus is giving his wisdom to the crowds. In order for the crowd to be able to use the knowledge, they must understand it. Does the class understand what Jesus is teaching? Just because someone is standing in front of you teaching you about something, you can't use the knowledge until you fully understand what they are saying. What should they do if they don't understand something? Ask!

Closing Prayer: Thanking God for the teachers who have the wisdom to teach us their knowledge. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for the teachers of the world, including your son Jesus Christ, who share their wisdom with us so that we may have a greater knowledge and understanding of the world around us and the people within it. Amen"

Activity:

Complete the following sentences from the list provided:

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

Blessed are those who _____ for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the _____ for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who _____ and _____ for righteousness for they will be filled.

Blessed are the _____ for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in _____ for they will see God.

Blessed are the _____ for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are _____ because of righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of _____.

Heart
 Heaven
 Hunger
 Meek
 Merciful
 Mourn
 Peacemakers
 Persecuted
 Poor
 Thirst

12-14 Years:

Opening prayer: To welcome students to class and introduce the theme. Keep the prayer simple and easy for the students to learn so that it can be said as a group prayer rather than one that the leader says. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

Bible Reading:

Start today's bible reading with a short passage from Proverbs. Proverbs 3 19-20

Follow this with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 1-10). This is to illustrate the role of Jesus in teaching his followers how to become Christians.

**Discussion 1:**

First of all ensure that all of the students are clear about what knowledge, wisdom and understanding mean. Then discuss whether these three things always come together. What can happen when knowledge is used without wisdom? What happens if wisdom is used without understanding? If you have knowledge about something, does that mean you must understand it? Why not? Ask the class for examples from their own experiences where the lack of one or more of these has led to a negative situation or memory.

Activity 1:

Have one student come up to the front of the class and quietly give him or her a little known fact - do this so that the others in the class can't hear what is said. Make sure that this information is understood.

Then ask another student to come up to the front of the class so that the first student can give this information to the second. They should use their own words - not yours - and it can only be told once. Again ensure that the others in the class are unable to hear. Go through the entire class so that each will tell the next this fact. When the last person has been told, have them tell the entire class what the fact was.

If it's right - it shows that if people understand the knowledge, they have the wisdom to pass it on. If it's wrong - it shows what happens when information (knowledge) is misunderstood.

Discussion 2:

Discuss the Beatitudes from the second reading. What do each of these mean? Who are these people in today's society? For example - who are "those who hunger and thirst for righteousness", who are "the peacemakers", etc.

Activity 2:

Write a newspaper article as if you were a journalist attending the teaching that Jesus gave that day. What did you think of it? What was the reaction of the crowd?

Closing Prayer: Thanking God for those who have the patience and wisdom to teach us so that we may understand each other and the world around us better. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for the teachers and leaders who are wise and share their knowledge of the world with us. Help us to understand them better so we can help your world become a more tolerant place in which to live. Amen"