

# BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

## FOCUS

Without Jesus we can do nothing good that will last for eternity.

## TODAY'S TIP

Write the verse on the chalkboard, together repeat the verse out loud. Now, erase two or three words and have students repeat the verse again.

Keep doing this until all words are erased and students can repeat the verse from memory.

## SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Light colored construction paper for each student
- Markers
- White poster board
- Circle patterns
- Paper Fasteners

## 1 OPENING WELCOME

- Welcome guests & take attendance.
- Ask questions about their week.
- Lead group in a chorus or two.
- Take prayer requests and pray for your class time together.
- Announce subject of today's lesson and pass out worksheets.

## 2 OPENING ACTIVITY

*Object of game is for students to write words (attitudes) that describe themselves. Give each student a piece of light-colored construction paper. Have them write their names in the center in large letters with a dark-colored marker. Around their names in colored markers they should write attitudes that describe them, such as; happy, friendly, quiet, joy, miserable, proud, sad, angry, loud, etc. (Each person will be different). Have them include some negative attitudes as well. When they are finished, have each read what they have written to the group.*

## 3 INTRO TO THE STORY

The attitude of being "poor in spirit" is stated in unusual words that may not be clear in their meaning. Let's say it with different words. A person who is "poor in spirit" knows how desperately he/she needs Jesus. A person who is "poor in spirit" isn't proud or conceited, but recognizes that his strength comes from the Lord. Read the last phrase of John 15:5. This phrase means that without Jesus we can do nothing good that will last for eternity.

## 4 STUDENT LESSON

In the story of David, from the Old Testament, we see a good example of a person who was "poor in spirit." David was still a young person (maybe a teenager) when he went out to fight the Philistine giant, Goliath. He hadn't been trained to fight men his own size—let alone one **twice** his size! David's older brother, who was a soldier for the Israelite army, was angered by David's boldness.

Read 1 Samuel 17:41-47. What do you think was the secret of David's success? (See verse 45) David knew that it would be possible to kill the giant only by God's strength. His earlier experiences as a shepherd boy, when he killed a bear and a lion to protect his sheep, had prepared David for this new challenge.

If we want to win our battles against the giants of sin that would devour us, we must fight in the name of the Lord, whose power is stronger than Satan's. We need Him desperately!

## 5 MEMORY VERSE

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

**Matthew 5:3**

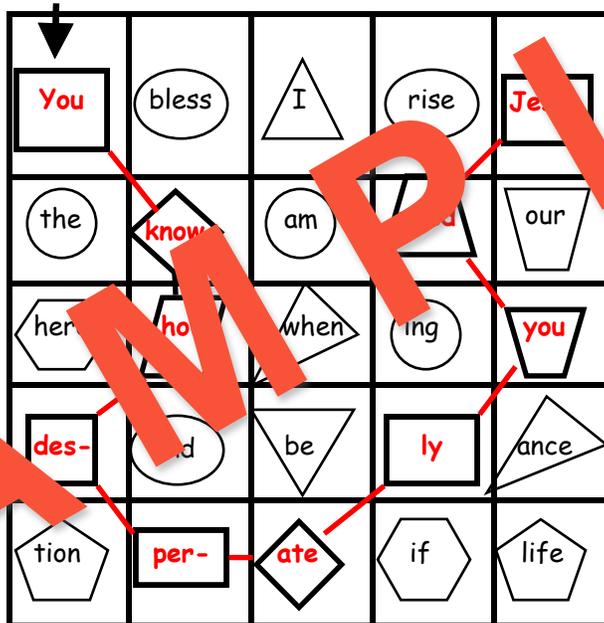
## 6 LESSON ACTIVITY

The word maze below contains a very important phrase for you to remember about being "poor in spirit", which is mentioned in the lesson. Starting with the square in the upper left-hand corner, draw a line connecting all the shapes that have **four sides**. You can move only one square at a time, and some shapes contain only part of a word, which is indicated by a hyphen.

**On the lines below, write the words from inside the shapes that you connected.**

**Join the hyphenated syllables to make one word. Finish the sentence.**

Start



If you are a person who is "Poor in Spirit"

You know how des- per- ate- ly you need Jesus.

## 7 CRAFT - Beatitude Game

**Before class,** make a sample of the craft so your students know how the game will look. For the first eight weeks while we are learning the beatitudes, each student will be making a game which will be finished and ready to play at the end of that time. It would be helpful for you to make one up in advance, so you can be more helpful to them as they make theirs.

Make 2 circles, one should be 8 1/2" in diameter and the other about 5 1/2". Use a compass or draw around objects this size to make a pattern for the students to use. Divide the larger circle into eight equal sections, like you are cutting a pie. Draw over the section markings with black marker. On the smaller circle, write in large letters in a circular pattern the words "**BLESSED ARE ...**" After the word "are," draw a large pointer to the edge of the paper. Fill it in with black marker. Cut out a section around the pointer as shown on the drawing. (This cut-out section will help you spin it). Find the middle of each circle and fasten them together with a paper fastener. This cut-out section will help you spin it. Find the middle of each circle and fasten them together with the paper fastener. It should look similar to the drawing on the following page.