

REACH FORTH

Sports played. Lives changed.

YOUTH HOCKEY:

2018/2019 Atom-Bantam Devotional Outline

WEEK 10 - January 5

BEATITUDES OVERVIEW

Me & We:

To start the new year, we are starting a new devotion. We are going to learn and explore the important words from Jesus on the Sermon on the Mount. Have you heard of the term beatitude before?

A lot of us might not have heard the word Beatitude before. Which is completely okay. But, that is what we are going to focus on for the rest of the year. The beatitudes are a list that Jesus provides—in the gospel of Matthew—that highlight those who are blessed. This list of passages also provides us a look into what the Kingdom of heaven will look like.

God:

Matt 5:3–10 - “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Me & We:

Is there anything in this passage that sticks out to you? A word that repeats? Yes, the word blessed is the focus here. Jesus is communicating the type of life he expects from his followers.

You:

This week, before we dive into each verse, **I challenge you to think what it means to you to be blessed. When you think of being blessed, what do you think of?**

WEEK 11 - January 12

POOR IN SPIRIT

Me & We:

This week we are going to look at Jesus's first beatitude.

God:

Jesus says in Matt 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Me & We:

Ask the room: what does poor in spirit mean?

The poor in spirit does not mean you have fewer coins in your piggy bank or zero v-bucks in fortnight. Jesus here is talking about those who are humble. Can anyone tell me what being humble means? [let kids answer.] It means you should not brag or think of yourself as better than others. Do you remember the story of Joseph? Joseph is a character who was most favored by his father over all of his brothers. His brothers hated him for that, so they ended up throwing him into slavery. Joseph was blessed by God and he ended up getting the trust from Pharaoh. Joseph ended up becoming Pharaoh's number two person (kind of like an assistant captain of Egypt). Later in the story, Joseph's brothers come and ask Joseph for food. He ended up forgiving them and humbly helped them.

You:

The challenge for this week is to live humbly. **If you, this week encounter a situation where you might look down on others, brag, or be arrogant**, try and humble yourself. Part of being humble is sometimes doing what Jesus wants, and not what we want.

WEEK 12 - January 19

THOSE WHO MOURN

Me & We:

Today we are going to be covering the second beatitude which talks about "those who mourn."

God:

Jesus says in Matt 5:4, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

Me & We:

Jesus says those who mourn are blessed. Can someone tell me what to mourn means? It means to be sad. This verse is strange, isn't it? Jesus says those who are sad are blessed. Jesus does not want us to be sad. But, he wants us to know when we do bad things. He wants us to be sad about the sin in our life. In hockey when you do something bad where do you go? The penalty box! It's a place to think what you did on the ice.

A great example of a character who mourns is David. King David even though he is "good king," during his reign committed adultery with Bathsheba. A sin that King David would later mourn about in his psalms. Many of the psalms in the bible are written by David.

The good news is that God will comfort us when we feel this way.

You:

The challenge this week is to not ignore the bad things we do and ask God to forgive us for that sin.

WEEK 13 - January 26

THE MEEK

Me & We:

This is the third week in our beatitude devotions. Today we are going to talk about meekness.

God:

Jesus says, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth (Matt 5:5)."

Me & We:

Can anyone tell me what the word "meekness" means?

The word means gentle, passive, and quiet. On the ice (or field) if someone trips you on purpose, what would be the response of a meek player be in this situation? They would not slash them back or retaliate. The meek player would brush it off like it didn't happen. Someone who is meek will also think about others before themselves. This is very hard to do.

You:

This week when you go home the challenge is to be meek. If you have opportunity's to be gentle in situations you are normally mad, that is meekness.

WEEK 14 - February 9

THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST

Me & We:

The fourth beatitude talks about righteousness.

God:

Here is what Jesus says, Matt 5:6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

Me & We:

Have you ever had a hockey practice or hockey game and did not have a water bottle? Or get so thirsty that all you could think about was a nice cup of water? Have you ever got so hungry that you considered eating broccoli?

When Jesus refers to hunger and thirst here, he wants us to have the same desire to live righteously. What does it mean to live righteously? [let kids answer]

This word is very complex. The best way to explain it to you is to say Jesus want us to be more like him. He wants us to desire to know him and knows more about him. If we can hunger and thirst for righteousness Jesus says we will be filled. Remember those times you were thirsty and hungry? Remember how good it felt to drink water and eat some food? That is what God promises.

You:

So, here is the reach forth challenge of the week. Learn to desire to be more like Jesus.

WEEK 15 - February 16

THE MERCIFUL

Me & We:

This week we are talking about mercy.

God:

Jesus says in Matt 5:7, “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

Me & We:

Can someone tell me what mercy means [let a few kids answer]?

Mercy means to show forgiveness toward someone who should be punished. If someone trips you on the ice. To show mercy means to forgive them for doing so.

Jesus says we will be shown mercy if we show mercy to others! Everyone in this room has sinned and needs mercy. Mercy will be shown to those who show mercy.

You:

The challenge this week is to be ready to show mercy to those who might not deserve it. Maybe this is your brother and sister. Friends at school or on the ice.

WEEK 16 - February 23

PURE OF HEART

Me & We:

This week we are going to explore what it means to live pure of heart.

God:

Jesus says Matt 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Me & We:

Blessed are the pure in heart. Jesus wants us to live for Him and live a life without sin. Does anyone know any Old Testament characters who got to see God? [let the kids answer] Mosses and Elijah both got to see God! We know they were not perfect, but they desired to live a pure life.

You:

The challenge this week is to try your best to think only pure thoughts and do only what you think living Jesus looks like.

WEEK 17 - March 2

PEACEMAKERS

Me & We:

This week we are going to learn about being peacemakers.

God:

Jesus says in Matt 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Me & We:

I have a question for you all, what does it mean to be a peacemaker? [let the kids answer a few times].

God wants us to 'make peace' with the people around us. As much as we can! This isn't always easy, but God wants us to try and do the best we can.

You:

The challenge for this week is to be a peacemaker.

WEEK 18 - March 9

PERSECUTION

Me & We:

This is the last beatitude In Matthew 5, today we will be talking about persecution.

God:

Jesus says in Matt 5:10, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Me & We:

Today we are going to talk about something that is not the happiest subject. Can someone tell me what persecution means? [let the kids answer].

Have you ever had someone mistreat you because of something you cannot control? That is persecution. There are many people around the world that are being bullied because of what they believe. Jesus says if you are persecuted for him, he reminds you that your true home is the kingdom of heaven.

You:

The challenge this week is to pray for those being persecuted for Jesus. If you are being mistreated because of what you believe the challenge is to endure.

WEEK 19 - March 23

GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Have you ever wondered where we came from? Where earth, animals, and nature came from? I believe the Bible when it says that God made all of this, including us! In fact, God's original plan was for us to enjoy life here on earth and to know Him like we know a friend; to have a relationship with Him. He loves us so much and created us so that we could know His love! Unfortunately, the first humans Adam and Eve chose to go against God's plan and they disobeyed Him, they sinned. The Bible says that "sin" is "missing the mark" or "falling short" of God's plan (Romans 3:23). Now, no one is perfect, except for God. We all make decisions, act, speak, and think in ways that go against what God wants us to do. God is perfect and doesn't like sin at all because of what it does to us. Remember, He loves us so much and wants the best for us, so there needs to be a penalty for sin. For thousands of years God's people needed to pay the price for their wrongdoing. God told them to sacrifice something valuable and innocent, an animal, to

make up for the wrong in their lives. Unfortunately, these sacrifices were never enough to completely pay the price, no matter what people, were still separated from God. It would be a really sad story if it ended there...but it didn't! The amazing news is that God loves us even though we are separated from Him by our sin! The Bible says that God chose to give us his perfect (innocent) Son Jesus to pay the price for the wrong we have done and will do. Listen to what the Bible says here: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.— John 3:16 Jesus lived a perfect life and though it brought God great pain, He gave Jesus over to be killed and when Jesus died, his perfect blood paid the price for all sin for all people... that includes you and me. Now when we trust in Jesus and what He did in our place, God forgives us of all the wrong we have done and we can be in a relationship with Him, just like He originally wanted! 3 days after Jesus died in our place, the Bible says that He rose from the dead! Can you imagine? What a miracle! It showed the world that nothing is impossible for God. It showed us that Jesus fully paid the penalty and that God's love for us is greater than we could ever imagine! Whoever believes that Jesus is God's Son, that He died in their place for their forgiveness, can know God like a friend, not just on earth now but forever in Heaven one day too!