

WALKING by FAITH

Grade 4 / Home Lesson

CHAPTER 10 BEATITUDES

Objectives

- Examine what makes people happy.
- Describe God's way to true happiness.
- Explore how to live the Beatitudes.

Step 1: We Are Invited (Life Experience), pages 74–75

Ask your child to think of what makes him or her really happy. Then pretend with your child that you are a genie and have the power to grant him or her one wish. Invite your child to share with you what that wish would be.

Pray together the opening **Prayer** on page 74. Explain that, in this lesson on the **Beatitudes**, you and your child will learn together about the ways Jesus gave us to find true happiness.

Read together the text on page 74 and up to the next heading on page 75. Ask: What are three sources of happiness for people? (things, accomplishments, other people)

Read **The Search for Happiness** on page 75. Ask: What things do people do when they're trying to be happy? (Accept all reasonable responses.) What things can we do that lead us to true happiness? (We can pray, participate in the Church's life, help others.)

Read aloud **Scripture Signpost**. Invite your child's response to the question. (Our need for happiness draws us closer to God; God is the source of all happiness, all joy, and all love.)

Talk about or give your child time to write about the topic in the **Activity**.

Step 2: We Explore (Doctrine), pages 76–79

Read together **God’s Way to Happiness** on page 76. Explain that those who are oppressed live under conditions that are unjustly forced on them. Explain that God offers a choice between the pleasures of this world, which do not last, and spiritual truth. Ask: What, or who, is the spiritual truth? (Jesus)

Read the **Scripture Story: Blessed Are You** on pages 76–77. Be sure your child understands that the word *rabbi* means “teacher” or “master,” and *blessed* means “happy” or “fortunate.”

Give your child a Bible and ask him or her to read the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1–12. Then have your child complete the **Activity** by sharing with you.

Discuss the Scripture story on these pages with your child. Ask: If Jesus were saying these words today, would people have the same worries and concerns as the people of his time did? Why or why not? (Help your child realize that today there are still unjust governments, health problems, poverty, and people wanting easy answers.)

Direct attention to the illustration. Ask: How does the picture show God calling us to true happiness? (It shows Jesus reaching out to a community like our own—boys, girls, moms, dads, and babies.)

Lead your child to recognize that poverty—the lack of things that are necessary in life—is not good in itself. God does not want anyone to do without basic necessities. As God’s stewards, we must make sure that others have what they need to live. Jesus is telling us in his words “Blessed are the poor” that those who rely on God instead of on material things will find true happiness.

Move on to page 78, and read the text on **True Happiness**. Use the **Language of Faith** at the end of the textbook to clarify the highlighted terms. Ask: What is the path to true happiness? (loving God and others) Explain that when we love God and others, we will begin doing things differently. Read the caption and discuss what the people who are walking together may be marching for. Be sure to read their signs.

Read **Our Moral Guide** and discuss the question. (material possessions, selfish desires, and worldly power or success; Jesus, our faith community, the examples of saints)

Direct your child to the chart on **The Beatitudes** on page 79. Read each Beatitude, and have your child read its “Meaning for Today.” For each, discuss how your family can practice the Beatitude. Also for each, name someone or some group that does a good job practicing it.

Step 3: We Reflect (Integration of Faith into Everyday Life), page 80

Review the material taught in this lesson by completing the sections **Recall, Think and Share, and Continue the Journey.**

Read **We Live Our Faith: At Home and In the Parish.** Try to follow through with the suggestions found there.

Refer to the **Language of Faith** section in the back of the textbook for clarification and review of all highlighted words.

Complete the **Faith Journal**, pages 19–20.

Step 4: Celebrate (Prayer and Conclusion), page 81

Read together **We've Got Joy!** Ask: Does Saint Paul's message make you feel good? Why? (Point out that Paul is telling us, "Don't worry, God is always near and always ready to listen to you.")

Then proclaim the Scripture again and sing together the closing **Prayer** song.