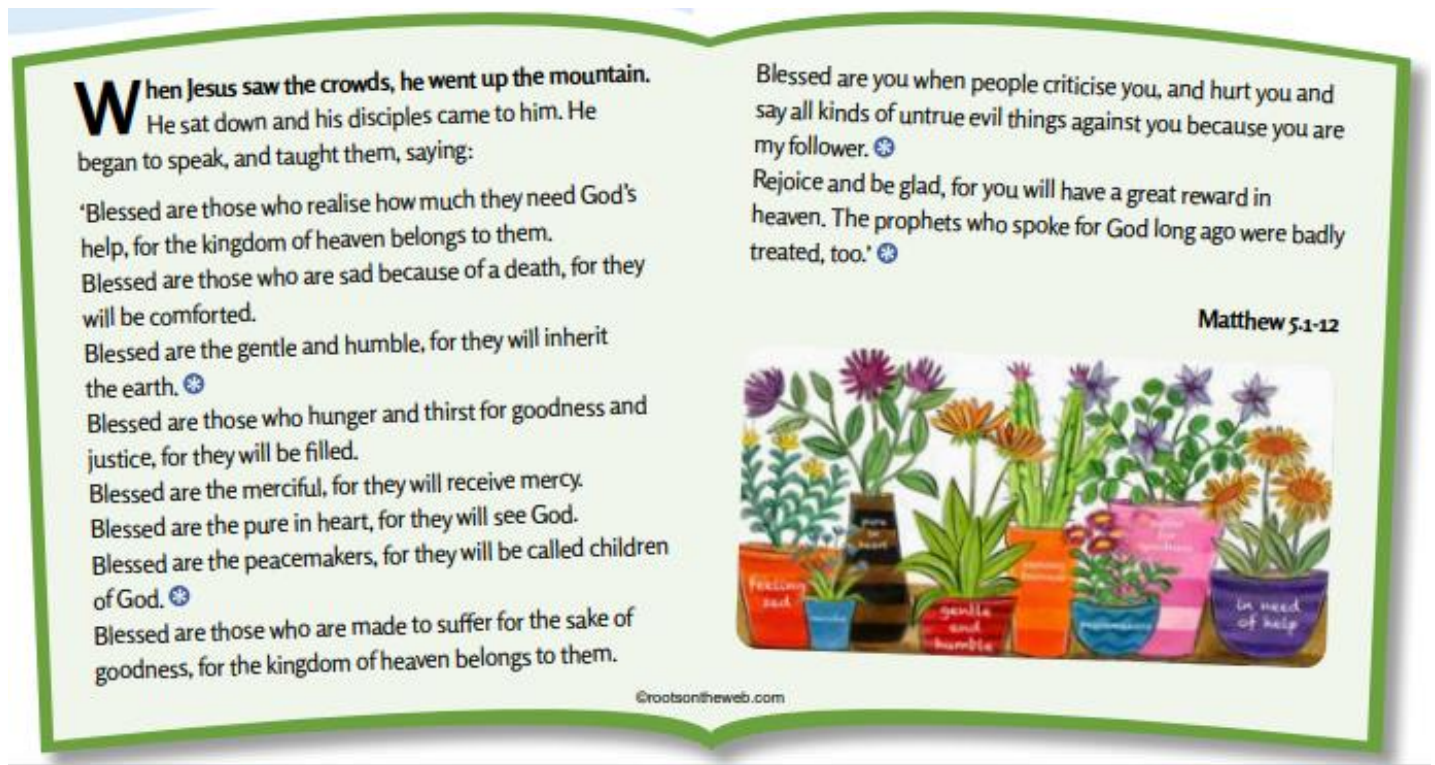


Children and families talk for Sunday 29th January 2023

Hello everyone!

Thanks for joining me today to look at another bible passage together. Today's bible reading is a very well known one, and is part of what we sometimes call; 'The sermon on the mount', as it was when Jesus went up on a mountainside to speak to and teach the people who were following him. It has another title too, 'the Beatitudes'.

Matthew 5: 1-12.



When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. He sat down and his disciples came to him. He began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are those who realise how much they need God's help, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.
Blessed are those who are sad because of a death, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the gentle and humble, for they will inherit the earth. ✪
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for goodness and justice, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive 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 made to suffer for the sake of goodness, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

Blessed are you when people criticise you, and hurt you and say all kinds of untrue evil things against you because you are my follower. ✪
Rejoice and be glad, for you will have a great reward in heaven. The prophets who spoke for God long ago were badly treated, too.' ✪

Matthew 5:1-12

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The illustration shows several potted plants in various colored pots (red, blue, orange, pink, purple). The pots have labels: 'Feeling sad', 'gentle and humble', and 'In need of help'. There are also some flowers in the pots, including purple and orange ones.

Let's talk about our bible reading:

Buttons: Hey!

Sandy: Hey! Are you feeling blessed today?

B: Ummm, what does it mean?

S: Well, it means, feeling happy and content with what you have, God gives us blessings, they are all the good things.

B: Well, ... let me think.

S: Well, are you happy?

B: I was until you started asking me difficult questions.

S: Oh, sorry.

B: How about you? Are you feeling blessed?

S: Yes! I have you as a friend, and God looking after me.

B: Wow, that's great! But why does it say we will be blessed when bad things happen, like when people are unkind? I don't think that's very good.

S: Well, Jesus wanted us to know that even when bad things happen, that we can feel ok about it, because things will turn out ok in the end. If we are Jesus' followers, we have a special place in God's kingdom, a big reward in heaven.

B: Okay, but I still think its not ok to be unkind.

S: Of course it's not okay to be unkind, and we know that, which is why you'll always be my friend and Jesus' friend too, Buttons. There may be good and bad times ahead, but we'll always have our faith in God to help us through, knowing that there are blessings from God to come.

Let's talk to God now:

This is me – praising you.

(arms above head, waving from side to side)

This is me – thanking you.

(place hands together in prayer position)

This is me – loving you.

(hands crossed across chest hugging yourself)

Through good and bad, when happy or sad,
thank you, Lord, for being there,
thank you, Lord, you always care.

Amen.

And let's say the grace together:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

The love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

Be with us all, now and forever more,

Amen.

Here is the children's activity page from Roots: [activity-sheet-29-january-2023.pdf](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-29-january-2023.pdf)
([rootsontheweb.com](https://www.rootsontheweb.com))