



You Are Blessed

(based on Matthew 4:23—5:11)

Large crowds followed Jesus wherever he went. There were mothers and fathers, children and babies, aunts and uncles, and grandparents. There were sick people and lonely people. Some people came with questions, and some wanted to know more. They had all come to see Jesus.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain and sat down. His disciples gathered around to listen. Jesus began to teach about people who are blessed.

“Do you see the people who rely on God? The grace of God is with them.”

Response: Thanks be to God.

“Do you see the people who are sad? The grace of God is with them.”

Response: Thanks be to God.

“Do you see the people who stay calm even when others try to upset them? The grace of God is with them.”

Response: Thanks be to God.

“Do you see the people who listen for God’s voice in their lives? The grace of God is with them.”

Response: Thanks be to God.

“Do you see the people who show kindness? The grace of God is with them.”

Response: Thanks be to God.

“Do you see the people who get into trouble for doing the right thing? The grace of God is with them.”

Response: Thanks be to God.

“Do you see the people who bring peace to troubled places? The grace of God is with them.”

Response: Thanks be to God.

Jesus’ words were passed from one person to another.

“I try to obey God every day,” said one person. “The grace of God is with me.”

Response: You are blessed.

“I have to rely on God for everything,” exclaimed another. “The grace of God is with me.”

Response: You are blessed.

“You are kind,” said one friend to another. “The grace of God is with you.”

Response: You are blessed.

“We use kind words to encourage others,” cried two women. “The grace of God is with us.”

“The grace of God is with us all,” the crowd exclaimed. “We are blessed!”

The people gave thanks for God’s love and blessings.



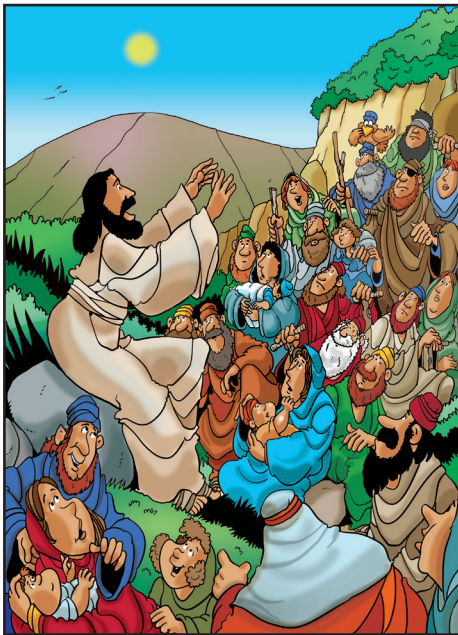
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Write the word *blessed* on a card. Pretend you are up on a mountain. Sit down together and read the story again. Hold up the card every time you come to the word *blessed*, and let your family members say this word.
- Invite your family members to recall from the story people who will be blessed.



Responding to God's Grace

- Explore what it means to be blessed. Talk about signs of blessing in our lives.
- Make a montage of pictures or words from the story about the different kinds of people who will be blessed.
- Talk about what family members can do to be a blessing to others. Some examples: help out at home, smile, stand up for what they know is right. Invite them to practice a new blessing this week.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Write the word *blessed* in the middle of a sheet of paper. Work together to write the lines below on strips of paper. Glue the strips of paper in an interesting pattern around the paper.
 - are those who rely on God. Heaven is theirs.
 - are those who cry. God will comfort them.
 - are those who are humble and think of others first. They will be satisfied.
 - are those who work for justice. They will be fulfilled.
 - are those who practice kindness and forgiveness. God will give them the same.
 - are those whose hearts are in the right place. They are in God's heart.
 - are those who work for peace. God will call them sons and daughters.
 - are those who get into trouble for doing right things. Heaven is theirs.

- Pray this prayer each day this week:

God, help me to be a blessing to others. Amen.