



## WEEK 3 AT HOME LESSON



### **BIG IDEA**

Blessings are gifts  
God gives us.

### **THE BIBLE**

**The Beatitudes:** Matthew 5:3-12

#### **MUSIC** | Celebrate and Worship

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Sing some worship songs with your whole family!

#### **ACTIVITY** | Secret Blessings

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids to sit in a circle and close their eyes. Go around the outside of the circle and discreetly tap one of the kids on the shoulder. The kid that is tapped is the "blesser." The blesser has to wink at people around the circle, and try not to get noticed. Everyone has to try to figure out who the blesser is. But anyone who gets winked at is "blessed," and they have to put their hands on their head and can't talk anymore. See if the blesser can "bless" everyone before getting noticed!
- Blessings are gifts God gives us. When you receive a blessing, it's a great idea to share with others how God has blessed you. When others hear how God has blessed you, they'll have hope that God will bless them, too!

#### **QUESTION** | What do you think "blessing" means?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids what they think the word, "blessing" means. Affirm their answers while steering them toward today's Bible story.
- In the Bible, a blessing is something God gives us out of kindness. God doesn't have to give us blessings, but God chooses to. God gives us blessings as a gift. Sometimes, a blessing is something you need for today, like clothes or food, but other times, a blessing is something that lasts forever, like God's love.
- Blessings from God make us feel loved by God!

#### **VIDEO** | Unboxed, Lesson 3

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's teaching video with Pastor Robin and Mr. Harrison!



### SCRIPTURE | Matthew 5:1-12

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Matthew 5:1-12 with your family. Tell your children to pay attention to the kinds of people whom God blesses. When they hear one, tell them to write it on a piece of paper. Have them share their notes with everyone before continuing with the lesson.
  - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have the “kinds of people” whom God blesses already written down on a piece of paper for the children. As they hear the “kind of person” being identified in the verse, have them use a highlighter and highlight the word on their paper (poor in spirit, meek, merciful, etc.). You may have to point to the word that needs to be highlighted.
  - **PRETEEN HACK:** Have one or more preteen kids read the Bible passage aloud for the group.
- **Who are the kinds of people that God promises blessings to?**
- Great job! Let's discuss what this means. Here are the explanations Pastor Robin gave in the video:
  - To be "poor in spirit" means to be humble and to always give God the credit.
  - To "mourn" is not just about being sad, but being truly sorry each time we do something that God doesn't want us to do.
  - When you are "meek," you count on God's strength, and not your own.
  - People who "hunger and thirst for righteousness" are people who stand up for what is right.
  - Being "merciful" is about forgiving others and having compassion for them.
  - The "pure in heart" are those who are selfless and don't have underlying motives for doing good things.
  - "Peacemakers" get along with others and also help others do the same.
  - When you are "persecuted for righteousness' sake," you might face some difficulties because you choose to follow God.
- Now when you think of blessings, these might not have been the first things you thought about. Usually we think about being blessed by having everything we need. But Jesus is teaching us in this Bible passage that when we show these kinds of characteristics, we will be blessed with something far greater than daily needs – God promises to bless us with great rewards in heaven. Even though we might feel sad or lonely sometimes, God will see our hearts and bless us in the long run!

### REFLECTION | My Blessings

- **What are the different blessings God has given you?**
- Think about the people God puts in our lives, the gifts God gives us to help others, the promises God made to us, and the things that help us know we're loved.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of origami paper. Tell them to use the white side to write as many blessings as they can think of. Save the finished sheets for the next activity.

### ACTIVITY | Origami Gift Box of Blessings

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Take the list of blessings the kids made during reflection time and fold the paper into a "gift box" shape (you can find some instructions [here](#)). The



## UNBOXED | WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY AT HOME LESSON

*finished "gift boxes" should have the colored side of the paper on the outside, with the kids' written list of blessings on the inside. Decorate the outside of the gift boxes and write, "Gifts God gave me" somewhere on the front.*

- **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Show an example of the finished Origami Gift Box before you begin giving instructions. Give instructions one simple step at a time, being careful not to overwhelm. Provide visual support for your verbal instructions. Model the creation of the origami gift box as you verbalize each step.
- **PRETEEN HACK:** Allow the students to make a second box for a friend (or teacher, parent, mentor) with that individual's gifts written inside, then label it "Gifts God gave YOU." Then, encourage them to bless that person with this gift during the upcoming week!
- These gift boxes are to help you remember that God loves you and continues to bless you. Any time you need to remember your blessings, you can open the box to see your list! Blessings are gifts God gives us!
- Encourage your child to share this reflection and activity with Pastor Robin and others at JCBC by posting a picture or video on Facebook (@jcbckids) or Instagram (@jcbckids), emailing Pastor Robin (rpriddy@jcbc.org), or mailing a card or picture to the JCBC offices (6910 McGinnis Ferry Road, Alpharetta, GA 30005)!

### DISCUSSION

- What are blessings?
- What kinds of people does Jesus say are "blessed"?
- What are the blessings that God will give to them?
- Re-read James 1:17. What are some "good and perfect" gifts and blessings that God has given you?
- Describe what it would be like to be "poor in spirit," "pure in heart," or any of the others Jesus talks about in Matthew 5.
- Which of those do you find the most challenging to be?
- Why do you think God gives us blessings?

### MEMORY VERSE | Bless You!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask a kid to recite the memory verse, but pretend to sneeze each word of the memory verse. When they are finished, tell the entire group to say, "Bless you!" Encourage as many kids to try this as time permits!

### PRAYER

- Dear God, thank You for blessing us. We are so grateful for Jesus who loves us so much. Thank You for all the things You give to us each and every day. Help us to use the gifts You give us to help others.