



## FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A FAMILY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION

### CALLED TO LOVE: THE ADVENTURE OF LIFE IN CHRIST

#### TOPIC: New Law Fulfills the Old Law

Jesus – The Way, the Truth, and the Life, Sin and Forgiveness,  
Grace & Christian Holiness

#### MATERIALS

**Ice Breaker:** Beatitude Charades

- [Free Beatitude Poster](#)

Bible

**Family Activity:** “Be My Way” Triptych

- [Directions and free print outs](#)
- White cardstock, Be My Way Printout, Be My Truth Printout, Be My Life Printout, Colored markers, crayons, or colored pencils, Colored chalk, Kleenex, Scissors, White glue, Gold Glitter, Clear tape

#### GOALS

- Families will share their Lenten Plans.
- Families will review the Beatitudes.
- Families will read and reflect on the Sermon on the Mount.
- Families will read and reflect on Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

#### OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, we entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples. Amen.

#### ICE BREAKER

*Beatitude Charades*

1. Write down the Beatitudes on pieces of paper and put them in a bowl. (One set of Beatitudes for each family.)
2. Invite families to open their bibles to Jesus’ teachings in the Sermon on the Mount ([Matthew 5:1-10](#)).
3. Family members take turns drawing a piece of paper and silently acting out what’s written on it while the rest of the group tries to guess.



# FAMILY SHARING (LARGE GROUP)

At home during Week 2, you discussed how your family will live the Lenten Season together.

How is God calling you to live the three Lenten Pillars of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving?

What will you do this Lent to prepare your hearts for Jesus?

## MAIN CONCEPT

God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites to teach and remind them the basics of how to love. (Recall that the Lord had just freed the Israelites from slavery, and the Ten Commandments were a path of freedom and happiness.) The Israelites had made a covenant or agreement with God where the Israelites were supposed to keep God's commandments and in return, God would be their God. He would love and protect them as His own children. However, the Israelites were often unwilling to follow the laws and keep the covenant that they had made with God. But God, who is love, had a wonderful plan! God would teach all people true love through His own sacrificial love for us! The Father gave us His Son, Jesus, to teach us how to love through His words, His actions, and most powerfully, in the laying down of His life for us! Even more, not only did Jesus teach us to love, but by His love poured out for us, He rescued us from sin and gave us the grace to love God and others (and ourselves).

This is the New Law—both teaching and grace—which fulfills the Old Law. The New Law—summed up in the commandment to love God and neighbor and to love one another as Christ loved us—is expressed in a special way in Jesus' first public sermon.

At Jesus' first public sermon, the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus begins by teaching us the Beatitudes which we learned about at our last gathering. There Jesus taught the law of the New Covenant—the New Law—that expands and fulfills the rules of love that God gave to Moses (the Old Law).

Invite: Please open your bibles to [Matthew 5:13-7:29](#). (Ask families to take turns reading the sections aloud.)

## FAMILY CONVERSATION

**Watch:** Teaching With The Chosen: Jesus Teaches the Sermon on the Mount, [Matthew 5-7](#) (5:24 min)

Which are more challenging laws of love, the Ten Commandments or Jesus' teachings at the Sermon on the Mount? How/why are those laws of love more challenging?

(Allow families time to discuss and then share in large group.)



**Explain:** Jesus' teachings at the Sermon on the Mount fulfill the rules of love that God gave to Moses. The Ten Commandments are the revealed expression of the natural moral law, teaching God's children basic rules of how to love. Jesus' teachings build upon the Ten Commandments, expanding and deepening them to their full truth in God's plan. They are God calling us to love like He loves, to have supernatural or divine love.

God has always been teaching His children how to love. In a way, the Garden of Eden was the first domestic church, where God's children, Adam and Eve, could live as family with the Holy Trinity, the first "Family"! Being made in the image of God, like God, our first parents had the freedom to choose (a freedom for excellence, to choose what was truly good, true, and beautiful). We know that they chose badly and all of God's children would have been separated from God forever. However, Jesus, who is God the Son, entered into our earthly family to lift us into our heavenly family, the Holy Trinity, in a way that would be even more beautiful!

Jesus did this through His life and especially through His Paschal Mystery: His Passion, Death on the Cross, Resurrection from the dead, and Glorious Ascension into Heaven, unleashing the power of His Kingship!

As we read in the Sermon on the Mount, the New Law or God's law of supernatural love that teaches us to love as Christ loves us—is difficult and basically impossible for us to follow perfectly, relying on our own strength. However, the Father gave us Jesus, who did not only open the gates of Heaven to us, but also is the Way, the Truth and the Life for us. It is Jesus who gives us the grace to live His Father's laws of divine love!

As we have learned previously, the New Law is both the moral teaching of Christ (and His Apostles) and the grace of the Holy Spirit by which we love with God's love.

**Ask:** How does Jesus give us this grace?

**Answer:** Through His Church and the Seven Sacraments. In particular, at the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the New Covenant through the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Then He gave His Apostles a New Commandment.

**Invite** families to open their bibles to [John 13: 31-35](#) and read aloud.

When Jesus explained that He must leave the Apostles, they became upset, so Jesus told them how they can find Him.

**Invite** families to open their bibles to [John 14:1-6](#) and read aloud.

**Watch:** Last Supper - The Passion



It is no coincidence that Jesus told His Apostles this at the Last Supper.

Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross (and Paschal Mystery) is the source of all the graces of all the sacraments. It is through His sacrifice that we can love God and one another and be reconciled to the Lord over and over. In this, we find the way to Jesus who is our Way to Heaven. It is through knowing Jesus that we come to know Truth, so we can live holy lives. And it is through Jesus and the sacraments that He gave to us, that we know the Life, which is God's grace! Only through Jesus can we come to live the New Law, God's law of supernatural love. The Holy Trinity is the family that we have been created to become one with.

By the grace of the Holy Spirit, we are able to choose the Lord Jesus and be transformed by the gift of His love! We are able to live the call to Christian holiness, which is a call for all the baptized, to live a life of discipleship, the adventure of loving others as Christ has loved us.

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

["Be My Way" Triptych](#) to be placed on the families' home altars.

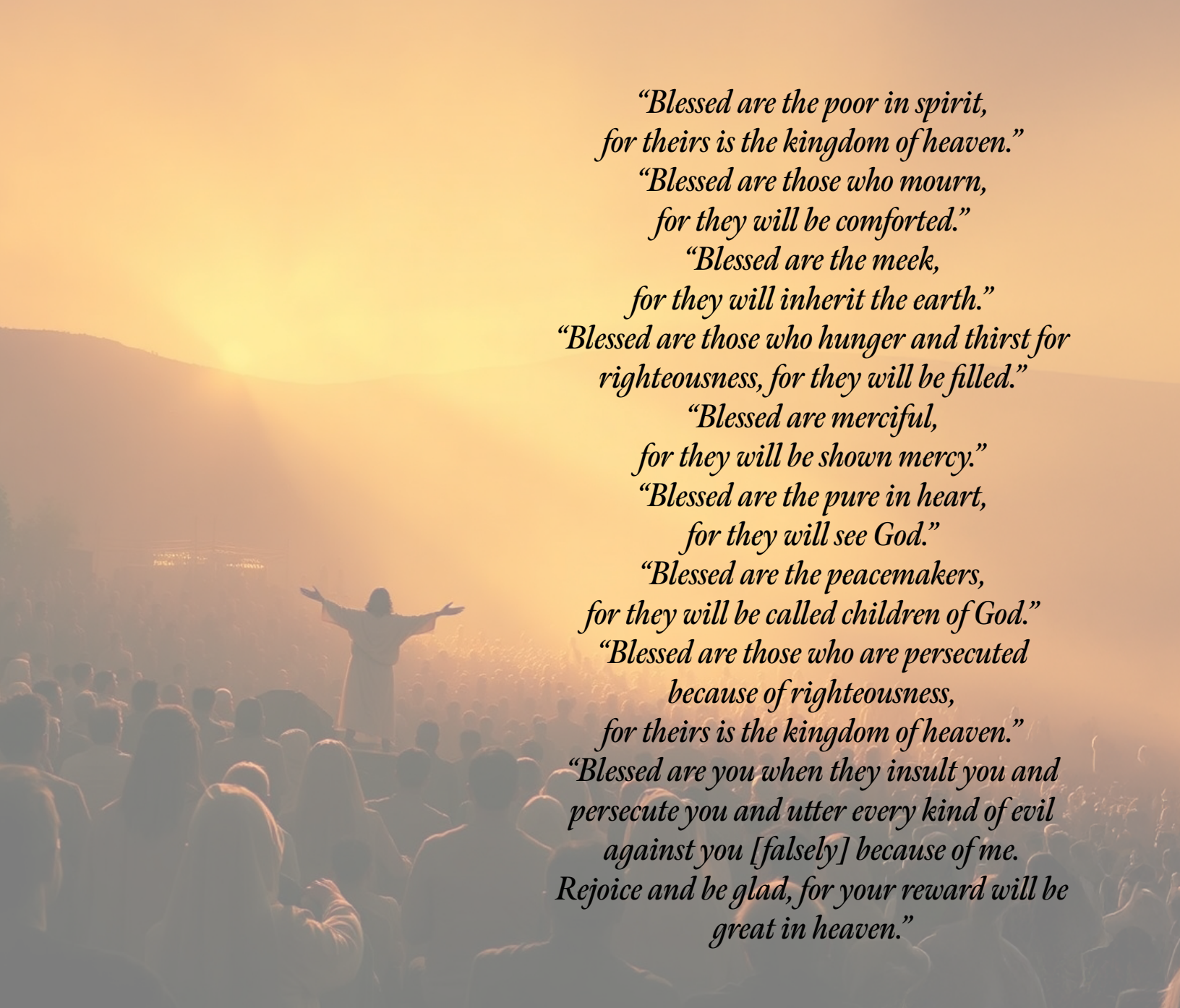


## CLOSING PRAYER

### A Beatitudes Prayer

Dear Lord,  
Make me poor in spirit, so I can receive the Kingdom of Heaven.  
When I mourn, help me find comfort.  
Make me meek, so that I may inherit the land.  
Help me to hunger and thirst for righteousness, so I may be satisfied.  
Make me merciful, so I may obtain Your mercy.  
Make me pure of heart, so I may see You.  
Help me to make peace, so I may be called Your child.  
When I am persecuted for righteousness' sake, show me Your Kingdom.  
We ask this in the Holy Name of Jesus. Amen.

Adapted from [www.thereligionteacher.com](http://www.thereligionteacher.com)



*“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 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.”*  
*“Blessed are you when they insult you and  
persecute you and utter every kind of evil  
against you [falsely] because of me.  
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be  
great in heaven.”*

## REMIN



Remind families about the next  
meeting date and time.

