


Blessed are the Persecuted...


Lesson Plan

Key Verses: *Matt 5:9, Acts 7*

Objectives:

 2's&3's -


- To learn how Stephen shared God's word.
- To learn how God was with Stephen even when others were mean to him.

 4's&5's -


- To learn how Stephen shared God's word.
- To learn how God was with Stephen even when others were mean to him.

 K & 1st -

- To learn the meaning of Persecuted.
- To learn how Stephen shared God's word.
- To learn how God was with Stephen even when others were persecuting him.


 2nd & 3rd -

- To learn the meaning of Persecuted.
- To learn how Stephen shared God's word.
- To learn how God was with Stephen even when others were persecuting him.


 4th & up -

- To learn the meaning of Persecuted.
- To learn how Stephen shared God's word.
- To learn how God was with Stephen even when others were persecuting him.

Application:

 2's&3's -


- I can share God's word.
- I can know God is with me even when others are mean to me.

 4's&5's -


- I can share God's word.
- I can know God is with me even when others are mean to me.

 K & 1st -

- I can share God's word.
- I can know God is with me even when others are mean to me.


 2nd & 3rd -

- I can share God's word even under fear of persecution.
- I can know God is with me always.


 4th & up -

- I can share God's word even under fear of persecution.
- I can know God is with me always.

Activities:


 2's&3's - Stephen (color page) (page 6)

Beatitudes (color page) (page 7)

 4's&5's - Stephen (color page) (page 6)

Beatitudes (color page) (page 7)

Stoning Stephen—Find the Differences (page 8)

 K & 1st - Stoning Stephen—Find the Differences (page 8)

Stephen—Word Search (easy) (page 9)

Color the Beatitudes (page 10)

Match the Beatitude (easy) (page 11)

Decode the Beatitude (page 12)

2nd & 3rd - Stephen—Word Search (med) (page 13)

Match the Beatitude (easy) (page 11)

Match the Beatitude (hard) (page 15)

Decode the Beatitude (page 12)

4th & up - Stephen—Word Search (hard) (page 14)

Match the Beatitude (easy) (page 11)

Match the Beatitude (hard) (page 15)

 All Ages - Beatitudes Review Activity (page 16-17)

The Beatitudes

The next Beatitude Jesus teaches us in Matthew 5:10 is Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Stephen, a Christian in the early church in Acts was one such person. Let's find out how he reacted when he was persecuted for believing and teaching others about Jesus.



Blessed are the Persecuted.. (Matt 5:10, Acts 7)

Have you ever put your hand on a stove burner that is turned on? Why haven't you knowingly placed your hand on the hot burner? Many of us have been told that we will be burned and to avoid pain we are careful not to put our hands near the hot stove. Some of us have accidentally touched the hot burner and burned our hand and suffered pain as a result. That pain reminds us to pay more attention when we are near a hot stove. We can try to avoid suffering pain as much as possible but did you know there is a pain that is unavoidable if you are a believer?

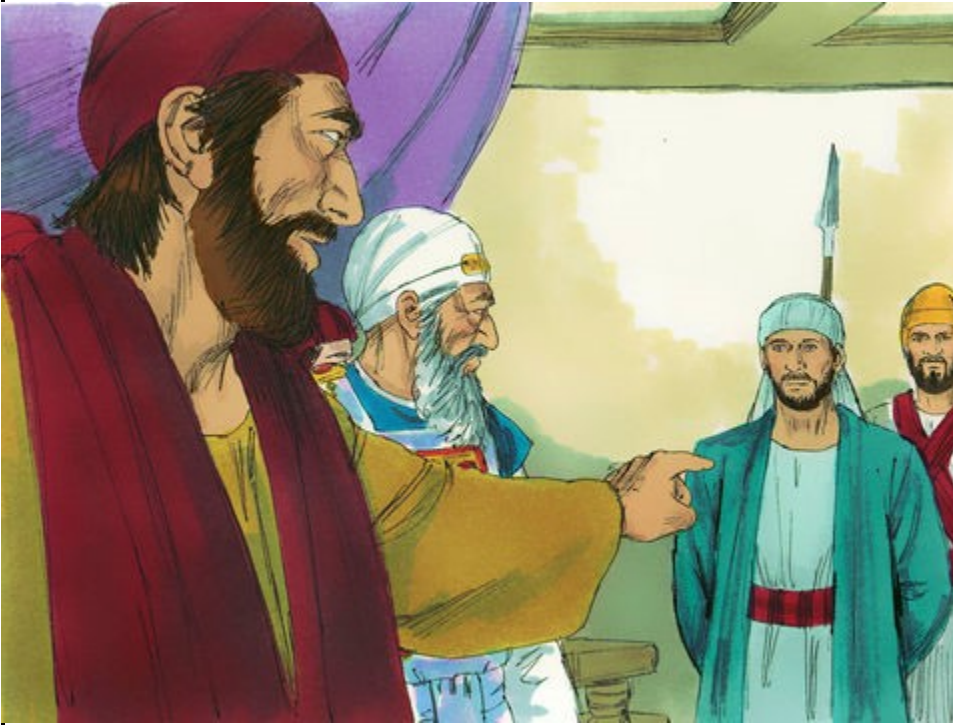
Jesus clearly said that anyone who was a follower of Him would suffer. He also promised that anyone who suffered for obedience to Him would be blessed.

If you are a believer how does it make you feel to think about suffering because you are obedient to what Jesus has asked you to do? What are some things Jesus asks us to do that may cause others to insult us?

As believers we have two choices. We can avoid suffering like we would avoid a hot burner. To make this



choice a follower of Jesus would not speak up about their faith to others. They would be afraid that others would make fun of them and they wouldn't want to lose friends. The second choice is to be obedient to Jesus and trust Him to give us the courage and comfort we need when we face difficulties because we didn't try to avoid speaking freely about our faith in Jesus.



Let's look at a person who did not allow fear of suffering keep him from speaking boldly the words of God to people who didn't believe in Jesus as the Son of God. Acts 6:8 says Stephen was "full of faith and power, doing great wonders and signs among the people." Stephen was sharing God's word with others. This made many of the Pharisees and Jews angry. They followed the Old Law and they did not want to believe in God or hear about

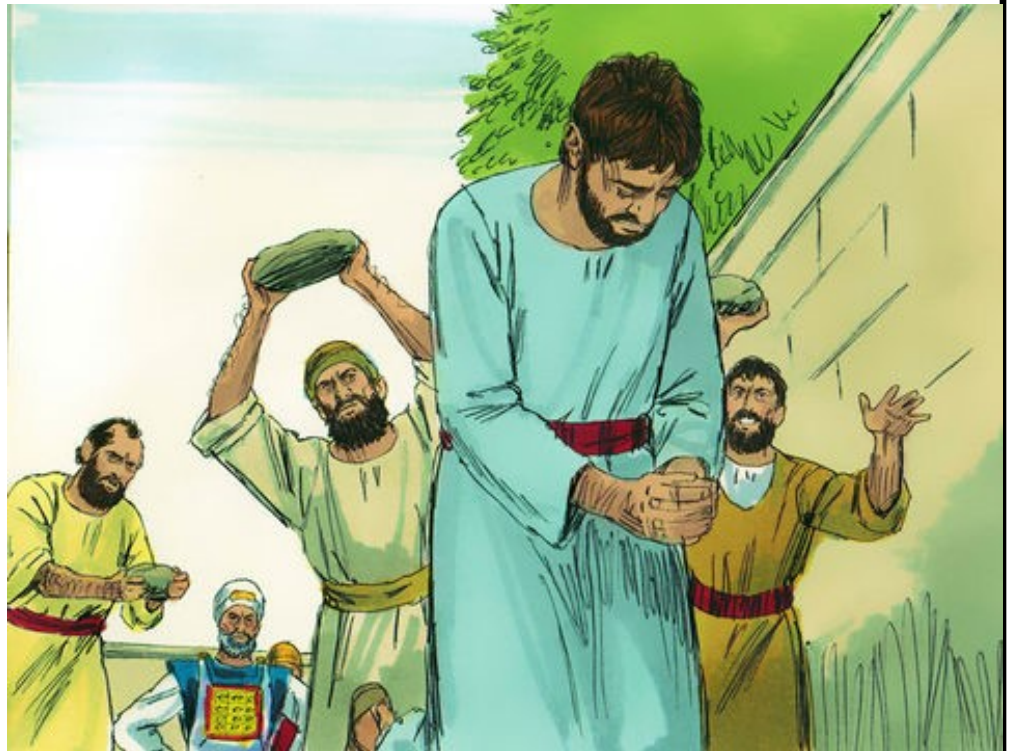
Him. They argued with Stephen, but he used God's words and wisdom to defend the gospel. Since they lost their argument with Stephen they came up with a plan to try to get Stephen in trouble. They found some people and made up lies about Him. As Stephen stands before the Sanhedrin (a council of religious leaders) they saw something unusual about his appearance. As he was speaking and defending the word of God his face began to glow.

The high priest asked Stephen if the things he was being accused of were true. Stephen answers him by giving a history lesson of God's work in the lives of His people. He tells that throughout history the Jews have rejected God's servants. He starts at Abraham and God's call



to him and the promises to his descendants. Stephen tells of how Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and persecuted him by selling him as a slave in Egypt. God used Joseph in Egypt to rescue his family from famine. Stephen goes on to talk about Moses and how God used him to lead Israel out of slavery in Egypt into the land God had promised Abraham. Stephen told his audience that God's people rejected Moses. Stephen brings the history of the Jew's rejection of God's servants to the present time, reminding them what they had done to Jesus. As the religious leaders heard Stephen tell them they were guilty of murdering Jesus they didn't respond in a positive way. They were angry. Stephen did not allow fear of these angry men keep him from bringing honor to Jesus. He continued to point the audience to Jesus as the Son of God who was standing at the right hand of God.

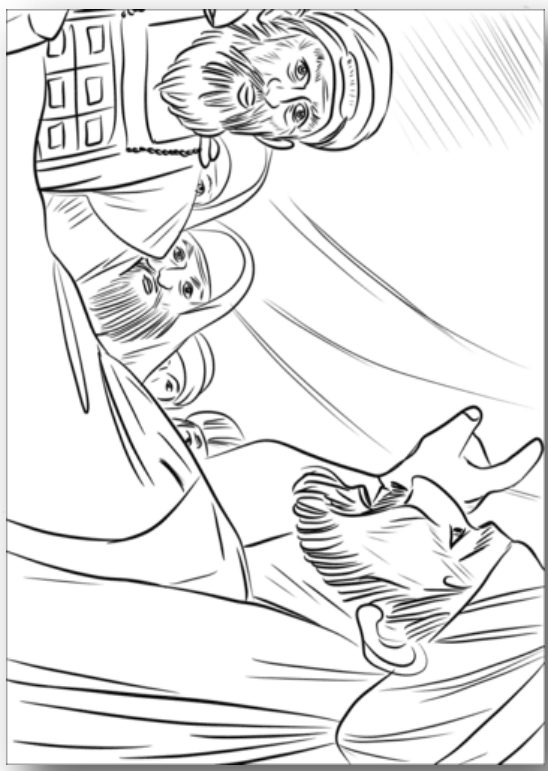
But they were very angry, stubborn people who were still rejecting the Good News about Jesus. They rushed toward Stephen grabbed him and dragged him out of the city. They were so angry with Stephen and God's message they all began to throw rocks at him. Even as Stephen was suffering as a result of sharing God's truth he asked God to forgive them for persecuting him.



This lesson seems to have a sad ending but it doesn't. Stephen was stoned to death but he was not alone as he suffered. He saw Jesus in heaven waiting for him. Stephen left his life on this earth and went to heaven to spend eternity with his Savior Jesus. You and I can be comforted that if we are believers the Holy Spirit lives inside of our hearts. Whatever God asks us to do while serving Him on this earth we will have the power to do because He lives inside of us. One day when we leave this earth we will spend the rest of eternity with our Savior, Jesus Christ.

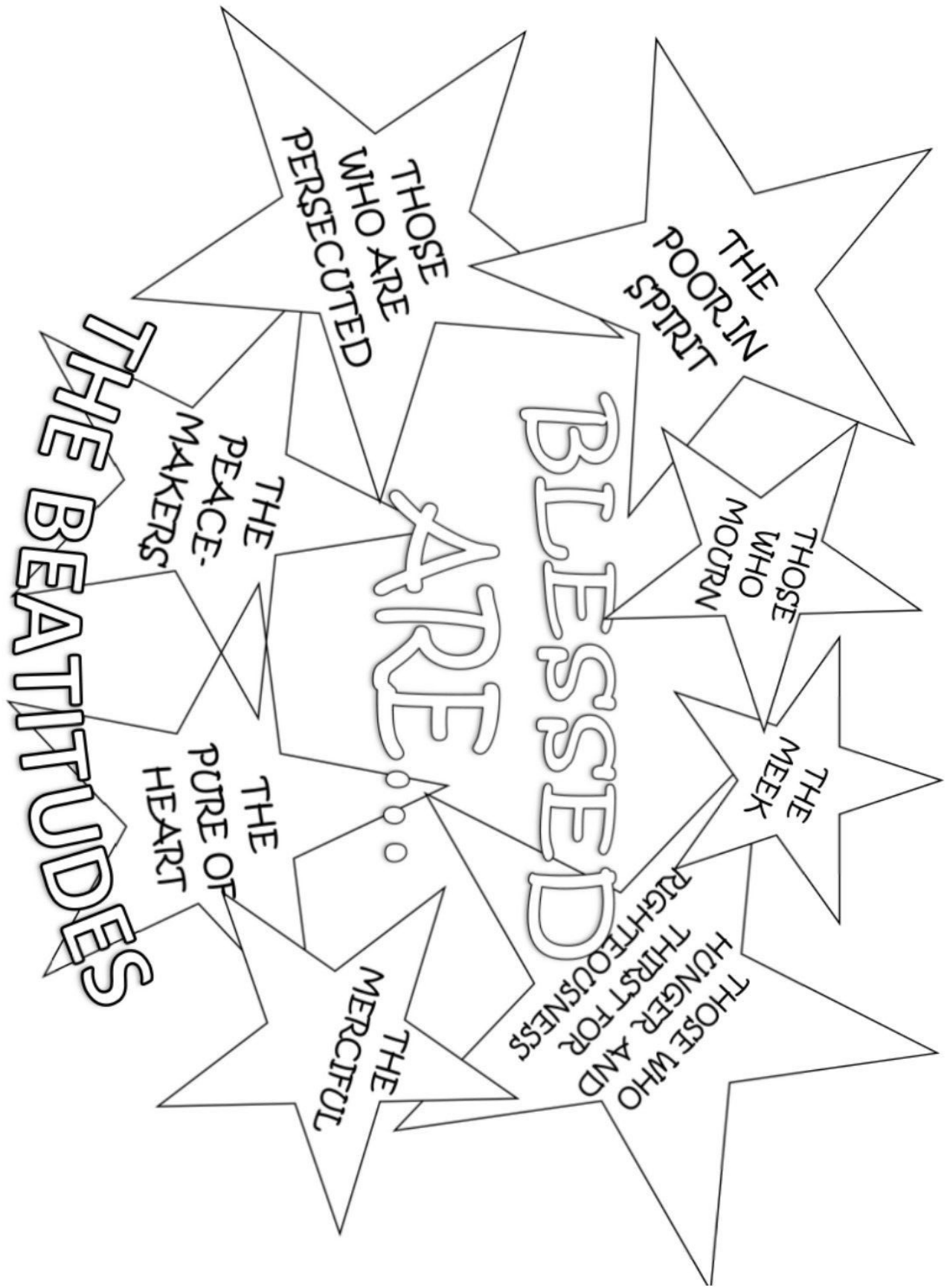
Blessed are the Persecuted...

Stephen told others about Jesus....



...even when some did not want to hear.



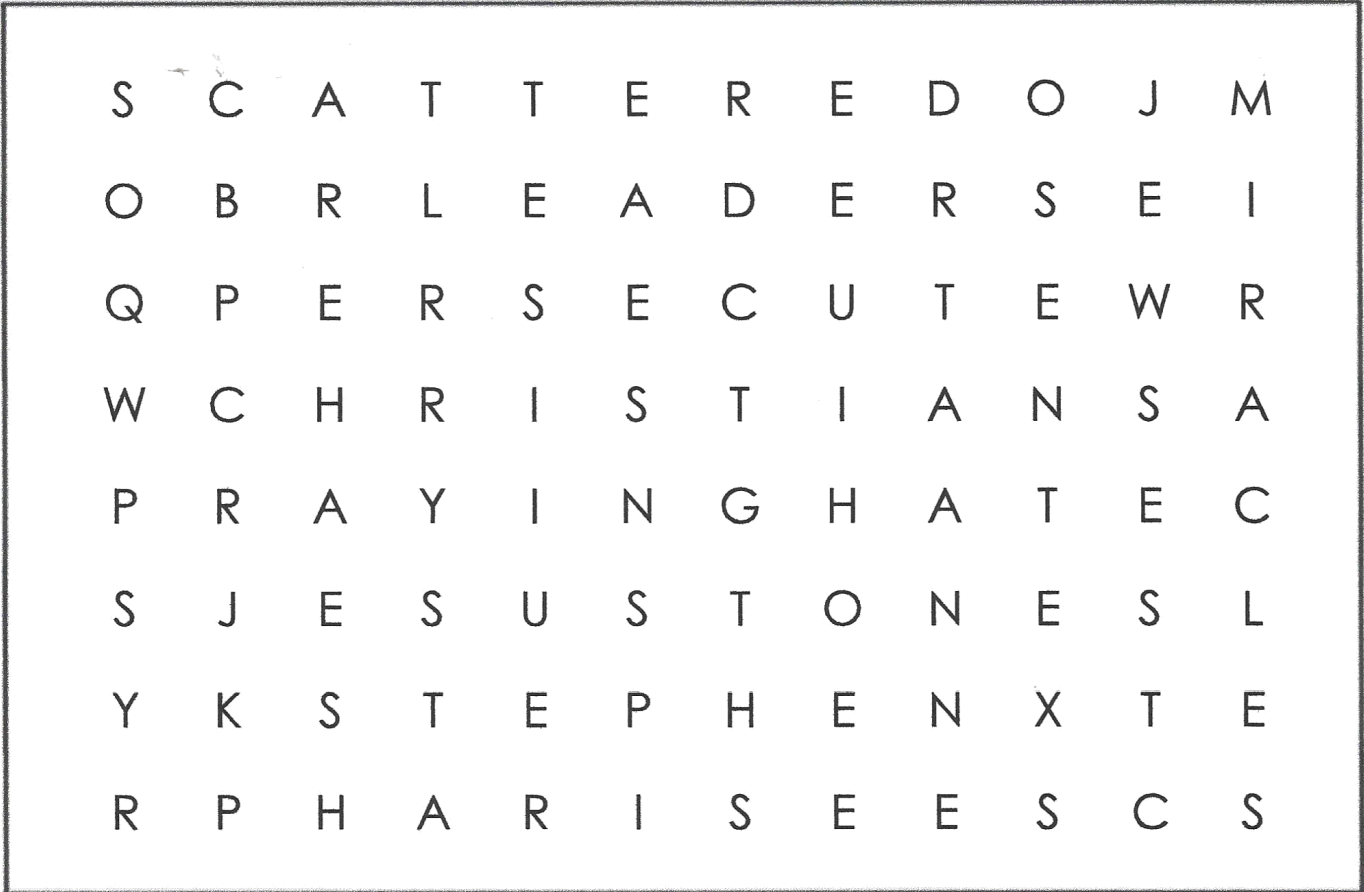


THE STONING OF STEPHEN

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



Blessed are the Persecuted...



Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → and ↓ .

CHRISTIANS
HATE
JESUS
LEADERS
MIRACLES

PERSECUTE
PHARISEES
PRAYING
SCATTERED
STEPHEN

STONES



Blessed are the Persecuted...

Color the Beatitudes

Color the shapes that have pieces of Beatitudes inside.

Blessed are they which are persecuted...

Blessed are
the pure
in heart...

Blessed
are
ye...

Thou
shalt have
no other gods
before me.

Blessed are
they that
mourn...

Thou shalt
not steal.

Give us this day
our daily bread.

Blessed are the
merciful: for they
shall obtain
mercy.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed
are the poor in spirit:
for theirs is the kingdom
of heaven.

Blessed are they which do
hunger & thirst after
righteousness sake: for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are
the peacemakers: for
they shall be called
the children of
God.

For thine is
the kingdom, and
the power, and
the glory,
for ever

Honor thy
father
and thy
mother.

Blessed are the Persecuted...

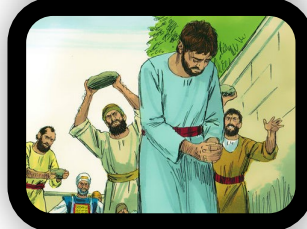
Match the Beatitude to the person who showed that attitude.

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the Peacemakers for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are the Merciful for they will be shown Mercy.

Blessed are those that Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness for they will be filled.



Blessed are the Persecuted... for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

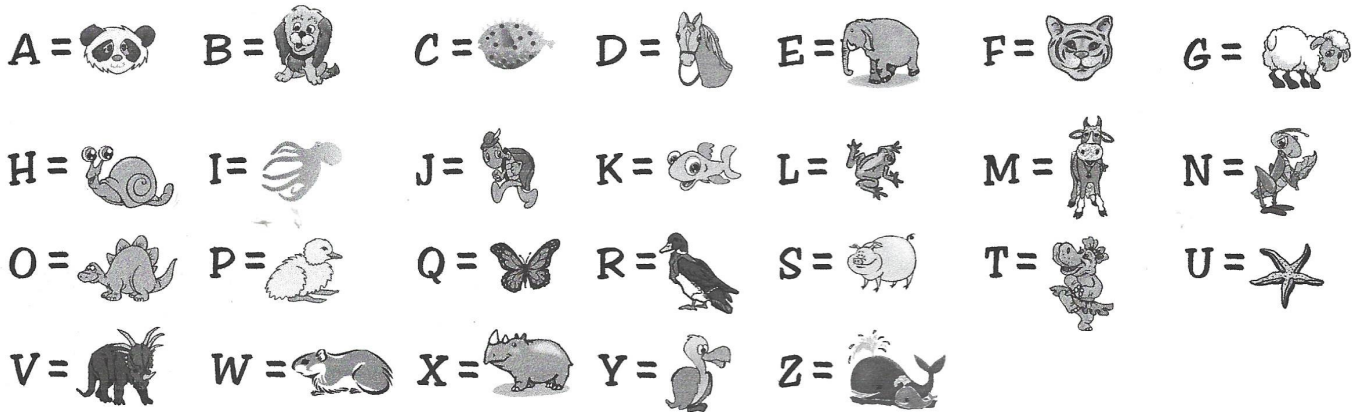
Blessed are the Meek for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those that Mourn for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the Pure in Heart for they will see God.

Blessed are the Persecuted...

Decode the Beatitude



Blessed are the Persecuted...

L M I R A C L E S N D G K Q J O F K
O I M G E T C P P Q U Q L O J N P R
K R P S O Z H B R P E D O O E Y E T
S C A T T E R E D A H T V D W U R A
M E B O E I I H X N Y A J E S U S J
Y S A N G B S D E P C I R C M C E F
A P Y E N U T P R T E Q N I L Y C A
H P S S D B I U X P C S I G S N U C
A Q S M L E A D E R S F L Y R E T E
T E R G E E N J U S R J X I H Z E L
E L H G P R S L B L A S P H E M Y S
C J F W U E B E S T E P H E N B L G

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

BLASPHEMY
CHRISTIANS
GLOW
HATE
JESUS

PRAYING
SCATTERED
STEPHEN
STONES

JEWS
LEADERS
MIRACLES
PHARISEE



Blessed are the Persecuted...

V O T B Q L V U L D E R E T T A C S R P J F P
 F Z T I S T R F W Q P H G E R W S F U C E N S
 R C F Y R T Y B G L V A Z E N K S O T D S M R
 G I H E M K E J C C N H N Z T T T M U O U N E
 G T G R K R P P M S E T U C E S R E P Y S D D
 M Z Z H I U X D H H B J S T O N E S R J T S A
 I G Y N T S M Y U E X Z K B D N M E Z U Q C E
 R V D J S E T Y P J N Y M E H P S A L B Q L L
 A T B O E U O I O C M F R A U P V O H L D I R
 C B V I E Q F U A C M F J T P M H E J X H D Y
 L O D I S F J I S N V X X I C N S T M V C W S
 E B U R I F G P Y N S G S T Q X A Q S H B R E
 S Q A D R X U Y A R E I B U R J M W O L G D T
 R B H V A D D Z J C Z S M D M G S W E J I L A
 B Q X L H V K H Y U N L S E F H A G X T C X H
 J L A Y P K Z G N I Y A R P H U O F E K V E T

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘ .

BEATITUDE
 BLASPHEMY
 CHRISTIANS
 GLOW
 HATE
 JESUS
 JEWS
 LEADERS
 MIRACLES
 PERSECUTE
 PHARISEES
 PRAYING
 RIGHTEOUSNESS

SCATTERED
 STEPHEN
 STONES



Blessed are the Persecuted...

Match the Beatitude to the gift they will receive.

Blessed are the
Poor in Spirit



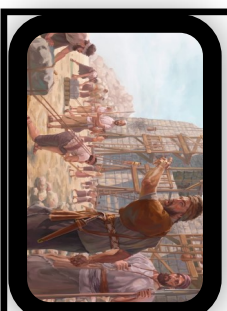
Blessed are the
Meek



Blessed are the
Merciful



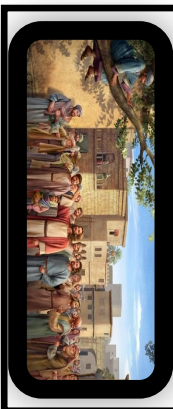
Blessed are the
Peacemakers



Blessed are those
that Mourn



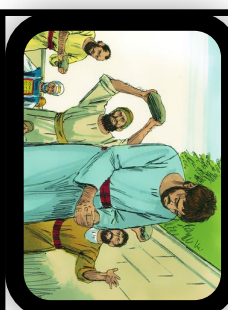
Blessed are those that
Hunger and Thirst for
Righteousness



Blessed are the
Pure in Heart



Blessed are the
Persecuted



They will
be
comforted

They will
be called
the sons
of God

They will
be shown
Mercy

Theirs is
the
kingdom of
heaven

They will
see God

They will
inherit the
earth

Theirs is
the
kingdom of
heaven

They will
be filled

Theirs is the
Kingdom of
Heaven

They will be
comforted

They will
inherit the
earth

They will be
filled

They will be
shown Mercy

They will see
God

They will be
called sons of
God

Theirs is the
kingdom of
heaven

Blessed are
Poor in Spirit

Blessed are
those who
mourn

Blessed are
the Meek

Blessed are those
who hunger and
thirst for
righteousness

Blessed are
the Merciful

Blessed are
the Pure in
Heart

Blessed are
the
Peacemakers

Blessed are those
who are
persecuted for
righteousness

Building our Beatitudes

- * Cut on solid lines
- * Fold into middle on dotted lines
- * Add picture
- * Draw or Write ways you can be a peacemaker



We will be adding a picture and how we can show the beatitude each week. Activity page only needs to be printed once. A new picture to put on will be sent each week. See samples below.

Folded

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Blessed are Poor in Spirit | Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven |
| Blessed are those who mourn | They will be comforted |
| Blessed are the Meek | They will inherit the earth |
| Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness | They will be filled |
| Blessed are the Merciful | They will be shown Mercy |
| Blessed are the Pure in Heart | They will see God |
| Blessed are the Peacemakers | They will be called sons of God |
| Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness | Theirs is the kingdom of heaven |

Folded and Filled

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • share my toys • help others • tell people about Jesus | Theirs is the kingdom of heaven |
| Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness | | Theirs is the kingdom of heaven |
| Blessed are those who mourn | | They will be comforted |
| Blessed are the Meek | | They will inherit the earth |
| Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness | | They will be filled |
| Blessed are the Merciful | | They will be shown Mercy |
| Blessed are the Pure in Heart | | They will see God |
| Blessed are the Peacemakers | | They will be called sons of God |
| Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness | | Theirs is the kingdom of heaven |