



Family Time

Main Idea:

Don't Sacrifice An Eternal Reward for Temporary Comfort



Key Verse: Matthew 5:12. Read it as a family.

Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



Read Matthew 5:1-12 as a family



Talk about it: Did anyone catch that important word in these verses? (Have children answer.) Right, the most important word in this section is the word BLESSED. Did anyone catch how many times the word blessed appeared in this passage? (Let them refer to their Bibles and count.) The word blessed shows up nine times in these twelve verses. That means it is an important idea. Beatitudes is an old, fancy word that means blessed. The Beatitudes are a list of blessings from God.

Blessing: So, what is a blessing? (Allow children to answer. Don't correct them, just get a feel for what they think blessings are.) We use the word blessing a lot. We ask God to bless our family, bless us, we even say "bless you" when someone sneezes! When you ask people what blessing means, you may get a lot of different answers. Some people say having a home is a blessing. Others say their pets are blessings. Most everyone would agree that family is a blessing. Lots of people say a blessing is God's love and peace in their lives. Do you think these people and your answers are right? Yes! It is a blessing to have a home, and a family, and pets, and friends, and food and toys, and getting to go to school, and having God's love and peace in our lives. These things are all blessings. But being blessed means so much more than that.

Here's a simple way to define what a blessing is: a blessing is God's gift of favor in our lives, even when we don't deserve it. Because God loves us, He wants to give us good things.

Parents: As your parents, do we love you? Of course! How do we show you that we love you? (Allow your kids to respond.) As your parents, we give you good things out of love. God blesses us and gives us good gifts because He loves us.

As your parents, do you always get your way? Of course not. You can't stay up all night, you can't have ice cream for dinner, and you can't ride your bicycle on the highway. You have to go to bed and get a good night's sleep. You have to do your homework before playing video games. You have to have vegetables with dinner. And sometimes you get a new coat for a present instead of that cool toy. Why do you think we do these things? (Allow answers.) It's because we know that you need these things to live a happy, healthy life. You have to eat well, sleep well, stay safe and work hard in school to feel your best and do your best.

God: Now let's think about how that relates to our relationship with God. Do we always get what we pray for? Do we always get our way? No, we don't. God knows what a good gift is better than we do. Sometimes when we think of blessings, we think of stuff, like money or food or a house. These things can be blessings. We may think about health and family and friends when we think of blessings. These things can be blessings too. But what about people who don't have homes? What about people who are sick and in the hospital? What about orphans who don't have any family? Are these people not blessed? Has God forgotten about them?

We don't have to have nice things or even be healthy to be blessed. We are blessed when God is with us, and God is with us, in our hearts, when we choose to love Him and follow His commandments.