

1. Jesus Teaches (Matthew 5:1-9)

If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet.
(John 13:14)

PLAN

Session Outline

1. GatherGreeting

Mountain Building and
Mountain Climbing

Are You Happy?

Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations

Hear and See the Bible Story

Interact with the Bible Story

Say the Bible Verse

Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Loving God,
Loving Neighbor

"Be a Blessing" Cat Toy

Happy

Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting

Praising

Blessing

At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies:

Tape | Stickers |
Markers | Crayons | Pencils | Glue |
Construction paper | Scissors

Gather: Building blocks | People figures
(variety of ages, races, and genders) |
Pictures of mountains and mountain
climbers (optional)

Explore: No additional supplies needed

Respond: Fabric strips| Ribbon |
Wooden dowels | Colorful tape | Sewing
scissors | Child-friendly magazines | Box

Bless: No additional supplies needed

Before You Teach

Today's Bible story is from a series of teachings Jesus preached that has come to be known as The Sermon on the Mount. Although presented as one long sermon, it is more likely these teachings were gathered from many different times that Jesus taught. In Matthew, the Beatitudes are the beginning of The Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes are also found in similar, though not identical form in the Gospel of Luke.

The Beatitudes provide instruction for how we are to live. Jesus teaches what we need to do to be blessed, or happy. The way Jesus teaches us to live is sometimes different than how the world tells us to live. This was true of Jesus' followers who heard the Beatitudes originally and it is true for us today. God calls us to depend on and obey God, be humble, merciful, pure of heart, and to be peacemakers even when the world tries to get us to do otherwise.

In a world where fighting and war are often front-page news, Jesus' teaching to be a peacemaker seems especially contrary to society's teaching. The references to peace are frequent in Jesus' teachings, so it is not surprising that peace is mentioned in the Beatitudes. Notice that Jesus' followers are not simply instructed to live in peace, but to be makers of peace. We have a calling to be advocates for peace, to do what we can to make peace a reality, even when it seems the world prefers otherwise. When we live in peace, we are following Jesus' teaching. Children may feel that they have a limited ability to be peacemakers. Help them understand that they can work for peace by modeling peace in their interactions with others. This may be as simple (or as difficult) as living peacefully with their sibling.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display the Attendance Chart (Class Kit—pp. 15–18) at eye level. Put together the model of the zoo and the figures of Benjie, Cinnamon, and the baby elephant (Class Kit—p. 9).

- Play “A Whole New Level of Love” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD, and Leader Guide—p. 91) as you welcome each child.
 - Show the children where to place their offerings, and help each child mark the Attendance Chart with a sticker or permanent marker.
 - Place the Deep Blue Shores Map (Class Kit—p. 11) and the zoo, Benjie, Cinnamon, and baby elephant figures (Class Kit—p. 9) on a table or on the floor for the children to play with and explore. If available, add the Deep Blue Shores Maps, buildings, and figures from previous quarters.
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A—Mountain Building and Mountain Climbing (Blocks)

Before class: Provide people figures of varying ages, races, and genders. (Optional: Print or find pictures of mountains and mountain climbers. Place the pictures around the block center on the walls or on the floor.)

SAY: In our Bible story today, Jesus went to the top of a mountain and preached. I wonder how tall the mountain was. Some mountains are so tall that mountain climbers have to use special equipment, or they have guides go with them. Some mountains are smaller and require just a short hike.

- Invite the children to build mountains out of blocks and to pretend that the people figures are mountain climbers.

OR

B—Are You Happy? (Game)

- Have the children stand in a circle.
 - Invite one child to complete the sentence “*If you’re happy and you know it, ...*” using a movement.
 - Sing the familiar children’s song, “If You’re Happy and You Know It,” using the suggested movement.
 - Continue around the circle until every child who wishes to have a turn choosing a movement has done so.
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Transition to Explore

- Have the children help clean up and then move to the Bible story circle. Invite them to move like they are feeling happy.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

SAY: During the season of Lent, the time our faith communities prepare for the season of Easter, we will be hearing stories about Jesus and his faith community. I wonder what we can learn from them.

ASK: I wonder:

- How many friends are here with us today? Who is missing?
 - How do you feel today?
 - What's one thing that happened in your community this week that you really liked?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: Today our Bible story is about a time when Jesus taught a large crowd of people.

- Tell the children the story, “Peace” (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 226).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 1 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

ASK: How can you be a peacemaker?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of “Jesus Teaches” (Bible Story Sheets—Session 1).
- Read the story with the children, encouraging them to read the words in blue.

TIP: Printable “Word Cards” for the words in blue are available each quarter to download and print at www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday.

Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Post the Bible Verse Poster—Unit 1 (Class Kit—p. 3) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster. Say the Bible verse for the children, and then repeat it together.
 - Teach the children signs from American Sign Language for some of the words in the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 94 and www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday).
 - Watch the Unit 1 Bible Verse video (Adventure DVD) with the children.
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Transition to Respond

- Have the children move to the next activity. Invite them to move like they are feeling peaceful.

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RESPOND

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Post "All Are Welcome" (Class Kit—p. 27) and "Meet Our Neighbors" (Class Kit—p. 13) on a wall or bulletin board. Make a copy of "Meet Benjie and Cinnamon" (p. 12) for each child.

- Play, "All Are Welcome" (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD). Sing along and dance to the music.

SAY: This week we are meeting more of our new Deep Blue Shores friends. We have seen these friends before, but now we get to learn a little more about Benjie, Edgar's dad; and Cinnamon, Kat's new kitten.

- Give each child a copy of "Meet Benjie and Cinnamon" (p. 12).
 - If you have confident readers, invite children to play the parts of Asia, Benjie, and Kat (and read the interview aloud). If not, read the interview to the children.
 - Invite the children to color the pictures.
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A—"Be a Blessing" Cat Toy (Art)

Before class: Cut fabric into strips of varying lengths approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wide. It is permissible to recycle fabric scraps that you may already have on hand. Then cut pieces of ribbon into various lengths.

SAY: Kat adopted Cinnamon from an animal shelter. We can help animals who live in shelters too.

- Give each child a wooden dowel.
- Invite the children to choose several strips of fabric and ribbons. Show them how to gather the strips and tie them around one end of their dowels.
- Invite each child to choose some colorful, sturdy tape to secure the ribbons and fabric onto his or her dowel. Provide help as needed.
- Collect the cat toys and place them in a box to donate to a local animal shelter.

OR

B—Happy (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Gather magazines for the children to use. Make sure the magazines contain appropriate images before giving them to the children. If necessary, tear out a stack of appropriate magazine pages to give to the children.

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheets—Session 1, and invite each child to create a collage of things that make him or her happy.
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Transition to Bless

- Have the children help clean up and then move to the Bible story circle. Invite them to choose to move like they are feeling either happy or sad.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Cut out the Walking with Jesus Mural Pieces (Class Kit—p. 19) and place them in an envelope or zip-top bag. Post the Walking with Jesus Mural (Class Kit—pp. 2 & 31) on a wall or bulletin board. Prepare pictures of people in your own church, family, or community to add to the mural who are Christ followers who “Walk with Jesus.” You’ll add these figures in Sessions 1-9.

- Gather the children around the mural. Invite a child to tape the image of Jesus (**A**) to the center of the mural. Then invite another child to tape the image of the disciple sitting and listening (**B**) somewhere on the mural.

ASK: What do you remember about the Bible story we heard today? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

SAY: In the coming weeks, we will be adding pictures of people from the Bible who knew Jesus. Some of them knew Jesus before Easter, and some did not know Jesus until after Easter. We know Jesus too! I wonder who you can think of who is “Walking with Jesus” like the people in our Bible stories.

- Tell the children about the pictures of present-day followers of Christ that you prepared before class, and then tape some of those pictures to the mural. Invite the children to bring their own pictures of people who are “Walking with Jesus” to add to the mural next week.
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Praising

Before class: Display “Singing Together” (Class Kit—p. 25) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Sing together, “Matthew 5:9” (Class Kit—p. 25).
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Blessing

- Invite the children to stand with you in a circle.
 - Turn to the child next to you and say, “*Peace be with you.*” Have the child respond by saying, “*and also with you*” and then turn to the next child and say, “*Peace be with you.*” Continue around the circle giving each child a chance to say *both* lines. Then conclude with everyone saying, “*Amen.*”
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At Home with God

ASK: What’s one thing about our time today that you can tell your family?

- Give each child a copy of Bible Story Sheets—Session 1. Look at “Family Faith Activities” together.

ASK: Which of these activities are you most excited to try this week?

- Give each child a copy of Bible Story Sheets—“Observing Lent in Community.” Look at the activities together. Send the Lenten Bible Story Sheet home along with Bible Story Sheets—Session 1 and Bible Story Sheets—“Singing Together” with each child.

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Meet Benjie and Cinnamon



MEET OUR NEIGHBORS

BENJIE

is Edgar's dad. He is also the zookeeper at the Deep Blue Shores Zoo. I love when we get to explore the zoo with him!

How long have you lived in Deep Blue Shores?

I moved to Deep Blue Shores twelve years ago to help open the zoo, before I married Edgar's mom. I grew up in the Philippines, and I have a lot of family who still live there.

I miss it sometimes, but I love it here!

What do you like to do for fun?

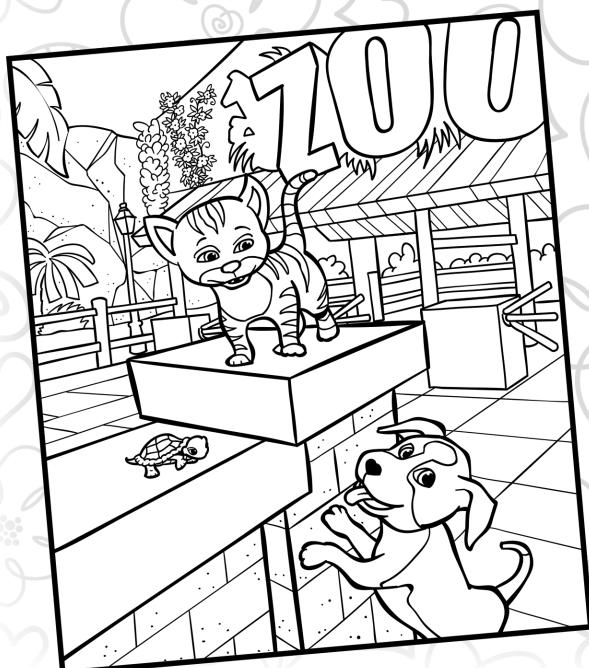
I like to learn new languages. I learned to speak Filipino, English, and Cebuano when I was young. Now I am learning Spanish from Rosie, Edgar's abuela.

Do you have a favorite Bible verse or Bible story?

My favorite Bible story is the story of Creation from Genesis. The earth has so many plants and animals! I love that God gave the first humans the job of taking care of and naming all of them.

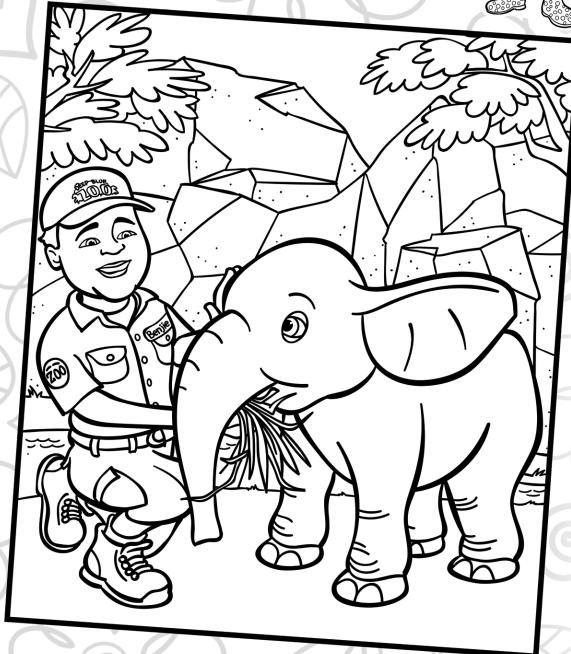
What is your favorite joke?

What do you call a messy hippo? A hippopota-mess!



Hi!

I'm Asia, and I have been helping my mom interview our neighbors here in Deep Blue Shores. I'm excited for you to learn all about some of my favorite neighbors.



CINNAMON

is Kat's new pet cat. He can't answer my questions, so I'm going to ask Kat to help us get to know him instead.

How old is Cinnamon?

We got Cinnamon at an animal shelter, so we aren't really sure. The volunteer at the shelter said he is probably about four years old. Instead of celebrating his birthday, we celebrate the day he came to live with us.

What does Cinnamon like to do for fun?

Cinnamon loves to learn new tricks. He can even play fetch! He wasn't sure about Indie at first, but now they really like to play together.

How did Cinnamon get his name?

We named him Cinnamon because of his orange fur. He also has a kind of spicy and sweet personality—like cinnamon!