

BEGINNER BIBLE TEACHER +

For Teachers of Children Ages 4 & 5



June
July
August

SUMMER
2023

Beginner Bible Teacher⁺

SUMMER QUARTER

June, July, August 2023

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CHRIST PROCLAIMS THE KINGDOM

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Dear Beginner Teacher,

Welcome to *Beginner Bible Teacher*! As witnesses for Christ in a changing world, we have to think creatively about how we minister, while still holding firmly to the Word of Truth. Our Plus Series contains the same robust Bible lessons and background information that you love, but they have been carefully crafted to help you excite your students to learn God's Word.

Here are a few old favorites reimagined:

- The **Big Idea** is the main point of the lesson (it replaces the Aim in the old *Beginner Bible Teacher*). This helps you focus your lesson on the one thing you want your students to take away about God and His Word.
- **Prepare Your Mind** and **Prepare Your Heart** will ready you to teach with background information and a short devotional (they replace Thoughts for Teachers).
- **Prepare the Room**, **Suggested Song**, and **Supplies** give you all the practical information you need to prepare for class time (they replace Getting Ready).
- The **Conversation Starter** is an interesting question or object lesson that helps you kick off your class and get your students invested in the lesson. It will always tie in with the first part of the Bible Lesson (replaces Beginning Worship).
- **Next Steps** helps your students apply the lesson to their lives (replaces Showing How to Live).
- **Activities** get your students' wiggles out while thinking about the lesson (replaces Action Time).
- **Please note:** In an effort to provide more flexible material and encourage teachers to model Bible reading for their students, we have chosen to leave the Scripture block out of these lessons.

AIM



Big Idea: God wants us to remember His blessings.

THOUGHTS FOR TEACHERS



Prepare Your Mind

Prepare Your Heart

Getting Ready



Prepare the Room



Suggested Song



Supplies

Beginning Worship



Conversation Starter

TELLING A STORY



Story Time

Showing How to Live



Next Steps

ACTION TIME



Activity

Here are some new features:

- **Introductory pages** for each unit will connect the units to one another and point toward the quarter's major themes.
- **Teacher Tips** in the lesson will give you quick tips to involve your students or deal with difficult subject matter.
- **Just Curious** prepares you to respond to questions students might ask about the lesson.
- **Prop Prompt** symbols notify you when to use a prop listed in the supply list at the beginning of the lesson. All props and supplies are in bold the first time they appear.
- A **glossary** section keys you in to words in the lesson that may be difficult to understand for young students.
- **Action** symbols help you see opportunities to invite your class to take part in the lesson.
- **Review Questions** will test your students' comprehension of the lesson.
- The **Christ Focus** encourages thought about how the Scripture passage and lesson point to our loving Savior.
- **Bonus activity pages** for your students will be included each quarter as supplements in the back of this book.

KEY:

Teacher Tips



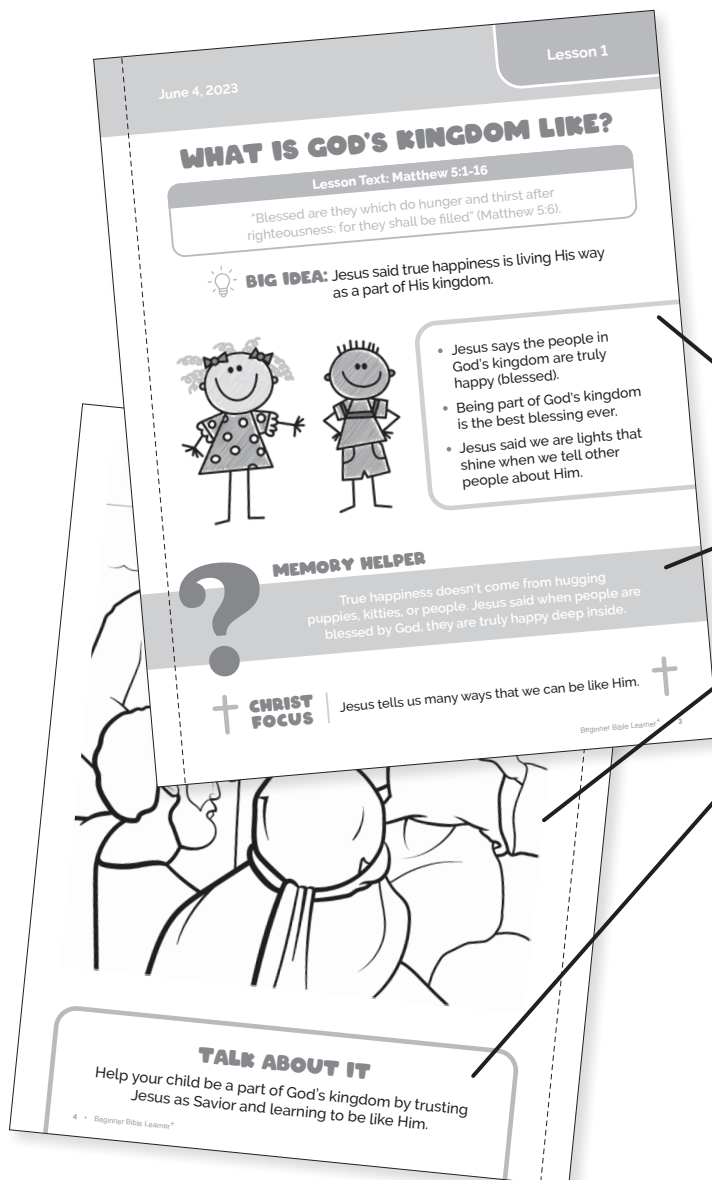
Just Curious



Prop Prompts



Actions



Here's a peek at the new *Beginner Bible Learner+*:

- A **lesson recap** summarizes the lesson in language beginners can easily understand.
- The **Memory Helper** reminds students of something interesting in the Bible lesson that will help them remember the Big Idea.
- The **coloring page** is bigger than ever to make it easier for little hands to color.
- **Talk About It** connects with Next Steps and cues parents/caregivers in on how they can help their children apply the lesson throughout the week.
- Each page is perforated, so it is easy to rip out and take home!

UNIT I:

Understanding God's Kingdom

Lesson 1: Matthew 5:1-16

What Is God's Kingdom Like?

Lesson 2:

Matthew 5:17-18, 21-22, 27-28, 38-39, 43-44

God's Perfect Law

Lesson 3: Mark 3:13-19; 6:6b-13

God's Kingdom Defeats Evil

Lesson 4: Matthew 13:24-33

How God's Kingdom Grows

What is a powerful kingdom? We think of a mighty king who defends his realm and people. God's kingdom tops the world's most powerful kingdom! You will be helping little ones understand it in this unit! They will learn about God's powerful kingdom. Children rarely understand the symbolism in parables, so be sure to emphasize that Jesus was showing people how God's kingdom grows. Teach students that God's kingdom is not just in heaven; it is in every person who belongs to Him. If they know Jesus as Lord, they take His kingdom wherever they go!



What Is God's Kingdom Like?

Lesson Text: Matthew 5:1-16



Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:
for they shall be filled (Matthew 5:6).



Big Idea: Jesus said true happiness is living His way as a part of His kingdom.

Prepare Your Mind

The Beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount provide a great introduction to what God's kingdom is like. Jesus' whole ministry on earth centered around proclaiming the coming of God's kingdom and getting people ready for it. In doing this, He had to set out to overturn popular and entrenched conceptions of what that kingdom would be like and entail.

The Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3-12) certainly upended everyone's expectations of who would comprise that kingdom and what it meant to live under God's blessing. They continue to upend our expectations today. Take time to meditate deeply on each of the blessings Jesus pronounced, even if you will not be able to cover every one in class. It will provide a solid and vital foundation for your teaching.

Prepare Your Heart

Since the term "blessed" in Matthew 5 can be translated "happy," the Beatitudes are often presented as a way to seek genuine happiness in life. By striving to have these "attitudes," we ensure that we will be happy in the way God intends us to be. That emphasis, we believe, has it backward. While we certainly should be striving after these qualities, Jesus wasn't offering a how-to formula for earning God's blessing. He was, rather, revealing the marks or characteristics of those God has blessed. Jesus was upending popular notions of what constitutes God's blessings. God's blessing is a deep happiness, independent of circumstances, that comes because we trust Him and see Him working in our lives. May we never lose sight of that.



Supplies

- a Bible opened to Matthew 5
- music player (any type, easy to turn on and off) and chosen song
- chairs
- tea lights with easy on/off switch
- dark-colored cupcake or muffin liners
- tape



Prepare the Room

Make sure the room is sufficiently darkened when the lights are turned off.



Suggested Song ⌚ 5 min

"This Little Light of Mine" (Loes)



Glossary

blessed: happy deep inside because we know God loves us and is with us

humble: not thinking you are someone great, especially too great to trust Jesus as Savior

righteous: doing what is right according to God's rules



Conversation Starter

What kinds of things make you feel happy?
Holding a snuggling puppy or kitty?
Getting a hug from a family member or friend?
Tell me some things.

Bible Lesson ⌚ 10-15 min

Jesus told about some important things that make us really happy deep inside. He was talking about a special kind of happy. He used the word “blessed.” That kind of happy doesn’t come from things around us or things that happen to us. It comes from God. Do you want to know what kinds of people have this special happiness from God? Listen closely, for Jesus tells us in our lesson from the Bible today.

When Jesus lived on earth, people wanted to be close to Him. One day, He went high up on a hillside. 🗨️ His own disciples gathered closest to Him, and many other people sat down behind them. 🗨️ When everyone was quiet, Jesus began to teach them. He had a lot of very important things to say.

We can read all that Jesus taught here in Matthew 5, 6, and 7. 📖 Hold up **Bible**; show pages.) Jesus talked about what it’s like to be in God’s kingdom. And He started by telling how happy, or blessed, the people who are part of God’s kingdom are. He told the people what makes them blessed, or happy in God. What He said are not things that usually make people happy. They are very surprising. But they show us God’s way of being happy.

The first surprising thing Jesus said was “Blessed people are the ones who know they aren’t important.” 🗨️ Why? Because they are humble, and only humble people are part of God’s kingdom. Proud people are not a part of His kingdom. The best blessing ever is being part of God’s kingdom. If you are humble and trust Jesus as your Savior, He makes you part of His kingdom.

Jesus said another surprising thing: “Blessed people are the ones who want to be righteous. They want it so much it’s like being hungry and thirsty.” Jesus said the people who are hungry and thirsty to please God will be satisfied. They won’t feel empty inside but will have His joy in them. 🗨️ Tell children to spread arms wide and jump for joy.)

Then Jesus said we are to be lights that shine for Him. How can we be lights for Him? By telling other people about Jesus and living such good lives that they will see how much Jesus changes us to be like Him. Then they will praise God and may trust Him too!



Was it a hillside or a mountain (Matt. 5:1, KJV)? The word “mountain” covers large hills to towering peaks. To us, the mountains in Galilee would look like big hills..



Show picture on page 47.



“Poor in spirit” (Matt. 5:3) is *not* thinking we are the best in the world. It’s humbly seeing we are nobody without God and cannot please Him without His help..



Activity: Musical Blessing Chairs ⌚ 5-10 min

Begin the game by **starting the music**. But when the music stops and one child is left standing, the others should jump up and give gentle hugs and praises. Then that child gets to turn the music on and off for the next turn (show how your player works). Remove one chair. Keep going until no chairs are left.

SUPPLIES:

- a music player (any type) and a song of your choice (perhaps “This Little Light of Mine”)
- chairs

PREP: Set up the room to play musical **chairs**.

Story Time ⌚ 5 min

Ethan came storming into the kitchen from outside, where he had been playing all afternoon. “I’m hungry!” he yelled. “I need a snack!”

“Not now,” said Mom. “It’s too close to dinnertime. I don’t want you spoiling your appetite!”

“But I’m *reeeeally* hungry!” Ethan wailed. “I can’t wait till dinner!”

“It won’t be that long,” Mom said. “Now go upstairs and wash your face and hands.”

“No!” Ethan said loudly. “I need something *now*! If I don’t get something to eat right now, I’ll die!”

“Don’t be silly; you’re not going to die!” Mom answered.

“And I’m thirsty too!” Ethan said quickly. “I really need something to drink!”

“OK, you can have a glass of water now,” Mom said.

“And I’m glad you’re so hungry and thirsty; it will help you understand something Jesus said.”

“What?” said Ethan, totally puzzled.

“When you’re this hungry,” Mom explained, “it means you want something to eat and drink more than anything else right now.”

“Yeah, that’s what I’ve been *trying* to tell you!” Ethan said.

“Jesus talked about something else we should be hungry and thirsty for,” Mom said. “Jesus came to help us live the right way, to be good the way God is. He wants us to want that more than we want anything else. He wants us to be hungry and thirsty for His help to live right and be good as He is.”

Jesus taught some other surprising things about living in God’s kingdom. Let’s find out more!



Activity: Hidden or Shining Lights ⌚ 10 min

Give a set of nested liners and one **tea light** (turned on). Have children place the lights under the upside-down liners. Turn off room lights. Do the lights shine? Turn room lights on. Have children put the tea lights on top of the upside-down liners. Turn off room lights. Let children see the difference. Read Matthew 5:14-16 and suggest they repeat the activity at home.

SUPPLIES:

- tea lights with easy on/off switch
- dark-colored cupcake or muffin liners
- tape

PREP: Nest four or five **liners** and **tape** together. Make one set per child.

Review Questions

1. What did Jesus say about people who are part of God’s kingdom? (They are blessed.)
2. What is the best blessing anyone could get? (being a part of God’s kingdom)
3. What did Jesus say we are to be? (lights that shine for Him)

Next Steps

Jesus wants us to live His way so that we can have deep happiness with Him. Think of a friend whom you can tell about Jesus and how you love Him. Be sure to be kind so that he can see what Jesus is like.

Christ Focus

Jesus tells us many ways that we can be like Him.

Prayer Points

- Thank God for the blessing of inviting us to be in His kingdom.
- Ask God to help you let your light shine for Jesus.