

UNBOXED

WEEK 3

BIG IDEA

Blessings are gifts God gives us.

BIBLE

The Beatitudes: Matthew 5:3-12;
(James 1:17)

LARGE GROUP TIME

MUSIC | "Blessings" ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids listen to and/or sing along to the song, "Blessings" by Laura Story ([video](#)). Tell kids to pay extra attention to the lyrics!*
- **What were your favorite parts of the song?**
- **What do you think it means when the song says "what if your blessings come through raindrops?"**

ACTIVITY | ▲

- Welcome back! Today, we're going to unbox even more gifts in our series called, "Unboxed!" Two weeks ago, we unboxed gifts God gave us. We were all made with gifts! Then last week, we discovered that God uses our gifts to help others. Today, we'll unbox gifts from God that we call, "blessings!"
- You know what's special about blessings? You get them from God, then you can give them to other people

ACTIVITY | Secret Blessings ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the kids to sit in a circle and close their eyes. Go around the outside of the circle and discreetly tap one of the kids on the*

shoulder. The kid that is tapped is the "blesser." The blesser has to wink at people around the circle, and try not to get noticed. Everyone has to try to figure out who the blesser is. But anyone who gets winked at is "blessed," and they have to put their hands on their head and can't talk anymore. See if the blesser can "bless" everyone before getting noticed!

- Blessings are gifts God gives us. When you receive a blessing, it's a great idea to share with others how God has blessed you. When others hear how God has blessed you, they'll have hope that God will bless them, too!

QUESTION | What do you think "blessing" means? ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids what they think the word, "blessing" means. Affirm their answers while steering them toward today's Bible story.
- In the Bible, a blessing is something God gives us out of kindness. God doesn't have to give us blessings, but God chooses to. God gives us blessings as a gift. Sometimes, a blessing is something you need for today, like clothes or food, but other times, a blessing is something that lasts forever, like God's love.
- Blessings from God make us feel loved by God!

THE BIG IDEA | Blessings are gifts God gives us. ▲

SO WHAT?

VIDEO | Unboxed, Episode 3 ▲



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's [teaching video](#).*

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 5:1-12 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Matthew 5:1-12 with the kids. Tell the kids to pay attention to the kinds of people whom God blesses. When they hear one, tell them to write it on a piece of paper. Have them share their notes with everyone before continuing with the lesson.*
- **Who are the kinds of people that God promises blessings to?**
- Great job! Let's discuss what this means.
 - To be "poor in spirit" means to be humble and to always give God the credit.
 - To "mourn" is not just about being sad, but being truly sorry each time we do something that God doesn't want us to do.
 - When you are "meek," you count on God's strength, and not your own.
 - People who "hunger and thirst for righteousness" are people who stand up for what is right.
 - Being "merciful" is about forgiving others and having compassion for them.
 - The "pure in heart" are those who are selfless and don't have underlying motives for doing good things.
 - "Peacemakers" get along with others and also help others do the same.
 - When you are "persecuted for righteousness' sake," you might face some difficulties because you choose to follow God.

- Now when you think of blessings, these might not have been the first things you thought about. Usually we think about being blessed by having everything we need. But Jesus is teaching us in this Bible passage that when we show these kinds of characteristics, we will be blessed with something far greater than daily needs – God promises to bless us with great rewards in heaven. Even though we might feel sad or lonely sometimes, God will see our hearts and bless us in the long run!

QUESTION | A Get Well Gift ▲

- There might have been a time when someone gave you a gift to encourage you. **Have you ever been sick and someone sent you a card, balloon, or teddy bear as a get well gift?**
- When we're feeling down and someone shows us they care, that's a gift to us, isn't it?
- God does this for us, too. When we need encouragement, God blesses us with peace and joy that only be given by God. Blessings are gifts God gives us.

SCRIPTURE | James 1:17 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse and read it.*
- The best gifts aren't from a store, they're from God! God loves us more than anyone ever could.
- God doesn't give us gifts because we deserve or earn them. God gives us gifts because God is just that good to us. And the every gift God gives to us is "good and perfect."
- The best gifts we could ever receive are the blessings God gives us!

NOW WHAT?

REFLECTION | My Blessings ▲

- **What are the different blessings God has given you?**

- Think about the people God puts in our lives, the gifts God gives us to help others, the promises God made to us, and the things that help us know we're loved.

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank You for blessing us. We are so grateful for Jesus who loves us so much. Thank You for all the things You give to us each and every day. Help us to use the gifts You give us to help others.

MEMORY VERSE | Bless You!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask a kid to recite the memory verse, but pretend to sneeze each word of the memory verse. When they are finished, tell the entire group to say, "Bless you!" Encourage as many kids to try this as time permits!

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What are blessings?**
- **What kinds of people does Jesus say are "blessed"?**
- **What are the blessings that God will give to them?**
- **Re-read James 1:17. What are some "good and perfect" gifts and blessings that God has given you?**
- **Describe what it would be like to be "poor in spirit," "pure in heart," or any of the others Jesus talks about in Matthew 5.**
- **Which of those do you find the most challenging to be?**
- **Why do you think God gives us blessings?**

ACTIVITY | Greeting Card

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid a greeting card printable, folded in half, for them to make their own greeting card to cheer someone up. Maybe someone

at church is sick and could use a get well card. Maybe there's a foster kid or foster family that could use some blessings. Maybe it's a missionary family or a sponsored kid who your church supports. Encourage the kids to encourage others, blessing them the way God blesses us.

- God blesses us because God is good. God blesses us when we're feeling down, and we can bless other people this way, too. Let's encourage someone!

MEMORY VERSE | I Peter 4:10 (NIV) ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Introduce kids to this month's memory verse, teaching them the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.*