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| **Unit: Special** | |  | | **Phase/Year: KS1/Y2** |
| **What should make a Christian happy?** | | | | |
| **Key Concepts**: Blessings, compassion, courage | | | **Learning Objective**: to know that the beatitudes are a key part of Jesus’ teaching; to explore the way that the beatitudes may influence Christian practice and behaviour | |
| **Background Information for teachers**: The Beatitudes, found in Matthew 5:1-10 are the first of Jesus’ teachings that are encountered in the New Testament. There is little historical evidence that these were the first teachings given, and the similar passage in Luke 6: 20-23 occurs slightly later in Jesus ministry. They are however part of the longest section of teaching in the Gospel of Matthew – part of the sermon on the mount. The Beatitudes consist of 8 short sayings, each one starting with the word “Beatus” – the Latin for blessed, sometimes translated as “Happy” or “Fulfilled” or “Complete”. It is important when choosing which version to read, that you consider how the translation affects the understanding. Some of the best translations veer away from the word “happy” as being too simple and easily misunderstood. There has always been much discussion about what the beatitudes mean, whether they are addressed to the crowd, or the disciples. The version in Luke is slightly different. This does not need to be shared with the pupils at this stage, but it points to the fact that different interpretations can be considered. These sayings are forming the basis of the Diocesan vision for being contemplative, compassionate and courageous. They have been divided into three sections: contemplation is identified from the sayings about the poor in spirit, the meek and the pure in heart; compassion links to the sayings about those who mourn and the merciful; courage is found in the sayings about those who hunger and thirst, the peacemakers and those who are persecuted. There are many events in the New Testament where the teaching is put into practice. Much of the Book of Acts explores how the disciples and the early church put all of this into practice. This unit focuses on the stories of Zacchaeus and Peter and John healing the lame man on their way to the temple. | | | | |
| **Expected Learning**  Pupils will know that the Beatitudes are part of the teachings of Jesus. They will know that Christians understand this teaching to be about how they should live. They will recognise three of the eight sayings in child friendly language and be able to give a simple explanation of what these might mean to Christians. They will be able to show how the beatitudes influence Christian prayer and worship. They will be able to compare one of the sayings to something that makes them or someone else happy. They will be able to show two events in the new testament that show compassion and courage in action. | | | | |
| **Developing**  Pupils will know that these sayings are part of Jesus teaching. They will be able to recognise one of the sayings and suggest what it might mean for a Christian. They will be able to retell either the story of Zacchaeus or that of Peter and John; they may be able to suggest a connection to the sayings. | | | **Excelling**  Pupils will show with more detail how Christians make use of the Beatitudes in prayer and worship. They will be able to give simple explanations of the kind of character someone who lives by the Beatitudes might show. They will be able to link the sayings to a wider range of stories from their own experience | |
| **Engage**:  What makes you happy? Explore some things that pupils like doing that make them happy. Each lesson in the unit could start with one or two children sharing the things that make them happy.  Create a range of emoticons to show different emotions. These can be used to help the children respond to the different sentences of the Beatitudes and to the characters in the stories read.  Give a range of pictures for pupils to sort into happy, sad, or other.  Show pictures of people being kind and unkind to each other; can the children identify who is “blessing” the other people? Discuss different ways to bless other people and make them feel happy, complete or fulfilled. | | | | |
| **Enquire & Explore:**  Read the story of Zacchaeus, from Luke 19:1-10; Use the Emoticons to support children’s understanding of the story. Discuss what Zacchaeus does to make other people happy. Had he been making people happy before he met Jesus? Introduce the words compassion and courage and identify parts of the story where he shows those things. How does he feel at the end? Is that what the children would have expected? Would they feel blessed/happy if they had given away lots of their money?  Read the story of Peter and John going to the Temple and healing the lame man at the gate (Acts 3:1-10). Discuss how this story also shows compassion and courage. What happens to the man? What happened to Peter and John? Who felt happy or blessed at the end?  Give out some of the sentences from the beatitudes in child friendly language (the Easy-to-read version from [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) is a good one). Do any of these sayings of Jesus link to the two stories? Do they link to the person giving the blessing or the person receiving the blessing?  Talk about whether the rewards sound like good things to them. Which of the rewards would they most like to receive and why? What would they do to receive that? | | | | |
| **Evaluate: (AT2 Impersonal)**  Why did Zacchaeus act as he did? Had he listened to what Jesus said? What about Peter and John? They had heard Jesus teaching for three years. How do Christians today set about blessing other people? Have a look at some of the charities that work in your local area. What are they doing that might show that they live by the teaching of Jesus?  Look at a church notice board and see if Christians today are living out the beatitudes.  Read some children’s prayers and look for references to the teaching. What about school Collective Worship? Does it encourage children to be compassionate and courageous? Do any of the teachings link to the school’s values? | | | | |
| **Reflect & Communicate: (AT2 Personal)**  How do people bless other people? Think of times when people say, “Bless you”. What does it mean? Why is it said? What is expected of people who are blessed?  Which of the sayings do the children like the best? Choose one and get them to talk about what it means to them. | | | | |
| **Evaluation**:   * What went well? | | | * Even better if: | |
| **Some suggested resources:**   * Towards a common vision – Diocese of Oxford materials (www.oxford.anglican.org) * Mathew 5:1-10 and Luke 6:20-23 (Easy-to-read version or International Children’s Bible) * Zacchaeus: Luke 19:1-10 * Acts 3:1-10 – Peter and John healing the lame man * Emoticons and images that show happiness or blessings and the opposite. * Children’s prayers * Church notice board or news sheet | | | | |

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| **Special: Beatitudes** | **Phase**/**Year: KS1/Y2** | |
| **What should make a Christian happy?** | | |
| **Some children in Year 2 will have made more progress and be able to:**   * Retell the stories with greater detail, drawing out the key teaching from each. * Describe the character of a person who tries to follow the teaching of the beatitudes. * Show how Jesus lived out his own teaching in a range of stories, not necessarily those covered in class * Using examples from prayers and/or school collective worship show how the beatitudes link to worship. * Link the Beatitudes to a range of responses to local, national or global issues. | |  |
| **Most children in Year 2 and some in Year 1, who have made more progress, will be able to**:   * Retell either the story of Zacchaeus or that or Peter and John. * Link one or two of the Beatitudes to each of the stories and give reasons for their choice. * Choose from a range of pictures ways in which Christians live by the teachings of the Beatitudes * Talk about ways in which Christians and others show compassion and courage * Choose prayers from a range to show how the stories or the beatitudes influence Christians prayer and worship | |  |
| **Most children in Year 1 will be able to:**   * Recognise from a range of pictures the stories of Zacchaeus and Peter and John at the Temple * Link one of the beatitudes to one of the stories and give some reasons for their choice. * Talk about one thing that a Christian might learn from either one of the stories or one of the beatitudes. * Make a link between the teachings and one thing that a Christian might do. * Make some suggestions about the meanings of courage and compassion | |  |