

# MCA Prayer Activity

## Living the Beatitudes

### All Ages



**Goal:** For students to understand what the Beatitudes are and what role they play in our daily actions.

**Leader:** While sitting on a mountain, Jesus taught the Beatitudes to the surrounding crowd. The Beatitudes are statements that, along with the ten Commandments, teach us how to live holy, faith-filled lives. They show us how to live with Christ in our hearts, putting others' needs before our own. As we listen to Jesus' words, let's ask ourselves, "Am I living the Beatitudes?"

**Reader 1:** A reading from the Gospel of Matthew Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus, they persecuted the prophets who were before you. The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reader 2:** Jesus gave us these teachings as a way to live in order to achieve eternal life in heaven. Let's pray for the grace to live the Beatitudes each day.

**Reader 1:** Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader 2:** Being "poor in spirit" means having a humble heart and looking out for others. We pray to become "poor in spirit" by putting God before everything else. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader 1:** We mourn when we recognize that we have sinned and feel sad. We are comforted by asking for forgiveness from God and others. We pray for the grace and courage to ask for the gift of forgiveness. We pray to the Lord.

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**Materials Needed:** Two readers and a leader; copies of this handout (or projected text); a small altar set with a bible, a crucifix.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader 2:** Meek doesn't mean weak! Lord, we pray for the strength to practice meekness by being patient and obedient when we would rather be first or do things our own way. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader 1:** No one is perfect: everyone makes mistakes. Jesus, help us to be merciful to others as we pray for mercy for ourselves. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader 2:** Our hearts are often open to the wrong things like bad language or gossip. We pray that we may be clean of heart in our thoughts and words. Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader 1:** Jesus, help us to be peacemakers. Let anger never be our guide! We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader 2:** Speaking the truth and doing what is right may not always be easy. Jesus, we ask for the grace to be strong when others may disagree with our faith. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader 1:** Lord, we know if we do all these things, we may not be the most popular person, but we'll be rewarded in Heaven. Help us to remember that we were born to live with you in this life and the next!

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Lord, your Beatitudes give us a road map of how to live our daily lives. Help us to bear witness to your ways to all we meet. As Missionary Childhood members, inspire us to think about how we can share these Beatitudes with children in the missions who are in need of Your Love and our care.

**All:** Amen.