


Jesus, Teacher and Healer

22

WE GATHER

 **Leader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

"As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him." (Matthew 4:18–22)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: We want to follow Jesus—but what must we leave behind?

Reader 1: May we leave behind selfishness, and follow Jesus in the spirit of gratitude and generosity.

All: Jesus, we want to follow you.
(Response to three petitions)

Reader 2: May we leave behind injustice, and follow Jesus with hope and help for those who suffer.

Reader 3: May we leave behind fear and self-consciousness, and follow Jesus by using our talents and abilities to help others.

Pescador de Hombres/ Lord, You Have Come


Tú has venido a la orilla, no has buscado ni a sabios ni a ricos;
tan sólo quieres que yo te siga.

Lord, you have come to the seashore,
neither searching for the rich nor the wise,
desiring only that I should follow.

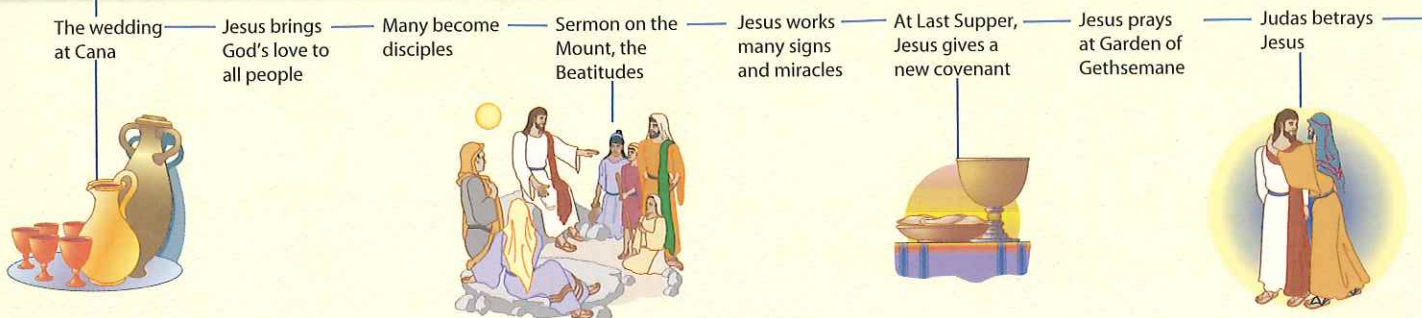
Refrain:

Señor, me has mirado a los ojos,
sonriendo has dicho mi nombre,
en la arena he dejado mi barca,
junto a ti buscaré otro mar.

O Lord, with your eyes set upon me,
gently smiling, you have spoken my name;
all I longed for I have found by the water,
at your side, I will seek other shores.

 Why do you prepare for an important event? What are some ways that you get ready for it?





Timeline for Chapters 22-26

WE BELIEVE

God makes himself known in his Son.

After Jesus' baptism at the Jordan River, the Holy Spirit led him into the desert. Jesus stayed there for forty days and forty nights. He prayed to his Father and fasted as a sign of his obedience. Jesus was preparing for his public life, his life among the people.

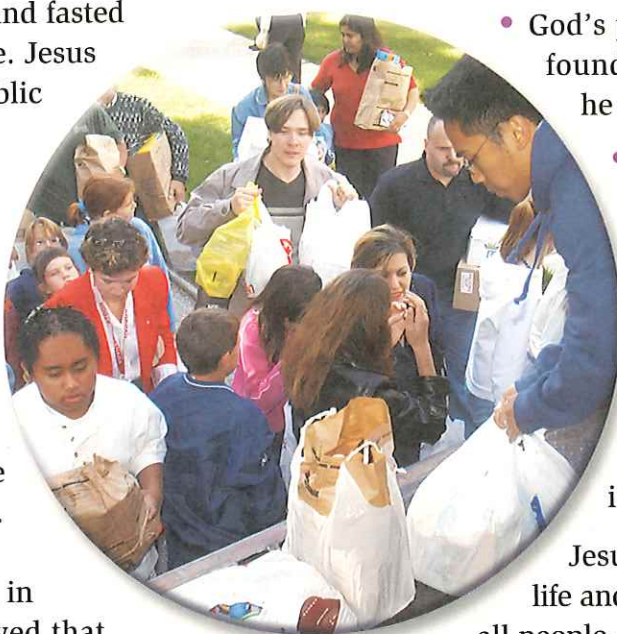
Jesus then returned to Galilee and began to preach this message: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). The Gospel is the Good News about God at work in Jesus Christ. Jesus showed that the **Kingdom of God** is the power of God's love coming into the world and into our lives. The Kingdom came into the world with the coming of God the Son.

The Jewish People had been waiting for this fulfillment of God's promises. They were waiting for God's Kingdom of justice and fair rule. Many hoped Israel would be restored to its place of power with God as king.

However, the Kingdom Jesus announced was not political. It was the power of God's

love active in the lives of the people. When Jesus said that the Kingdom, or reign, of God was near, he was saying that:

- God's presence and rule can be found in him and in the things he said and did
- freedom from sin and the gift of God's life of grace are offered to everyone
- by living in God's presence and for the Kingdom, people can begin to live in God's life, the very life that we believe is life with God forever.



Jesus' mission was to share the life and love of God his Father with all people and to reconcile all people to God. Jesus brought God's love to all people and began to change the world. "The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority." (Mark 1:22) During his ministry Jesus encouraged all people to turn to God. He accepted and welcomed all people into his life. He showed concern for people who were ignored or neglected by the rest of society. Jesus' life was a sign of God the Father's love and care. The Holy Spirit was truly active in Jesus.

Jesus is
condemned
to death



Jesus is
crucified

Jesus' body
is placed in
tomb



Jesus rises
from dead,
women find
empty tomb

Jesus appears
to Mary
Magdalene



Jesus appears
to disciples

Thomas
doubts Jesus'
Resurrection



Jesus
ascends to
Heaven

con't >

Jesus also forgave the sins of those who sought God's forgiveness and healed those who were suffering from many different kinds of illnesses. These actions of healing and forgiving were special signs that Jesus was not only human, but also divine.

The things that Jesus said and did are the greatest Revelation of who God is and of how God loves us. And the ways we speak and act and live our faith show our belief in God's own Son, Jesus Christ.



Think about the Kingdom of God. Work together to list some signs that God's love is active in our lives. Using these signs as captions, make a poster entitled "The kingdom of God is at hand" (Mark 1:15).

As Catholics...

God revealed his Kingdom to us in the words of Christ, in the works of Christ, and in the very presence of Christ among us. After Christ's Resurrection the Church was planted like a seed in the world. Our mission is to bring forth the fruits of the Kingdom of God. What are these fruits? They are many, "but the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

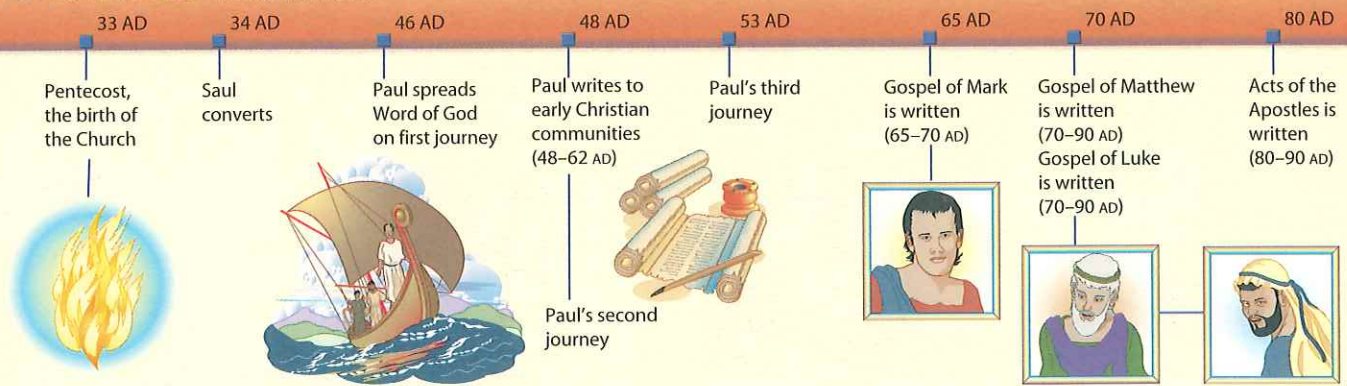
What are some of the other fruits, or signs, of the Kingdom of God?



Kingdom of God (p. 330)

"The kingdom of God is at hand." (Mark 1:15)

THE EARLY CHURCH (All dates approximate)



Timeline for Chapters 22–26

Many people heard Jesus' message and became his disciples.

Jesus' message gave people hope. Many people wanted to know Jesus better and learn more about God's love. So they began to follow Jesus. He invited all different kinds of people to follow him and live by his teachings. These women and men became his disciples.

One day a large crowd followed Jesus to the mountains. The message that Jesus gave to the people that day has become known as the *Sermon on the Mount*. In the first part of this sermon Jesus taught that people would be happy only if they trusted in God and lived as he did.

We call these teachings that describe the way to live as Jesus' disciples the **Beatitudes**. In the Beatitudes *blessed* means "happy." As disciples of Jesus, we too are called to follow the Beatitudes.

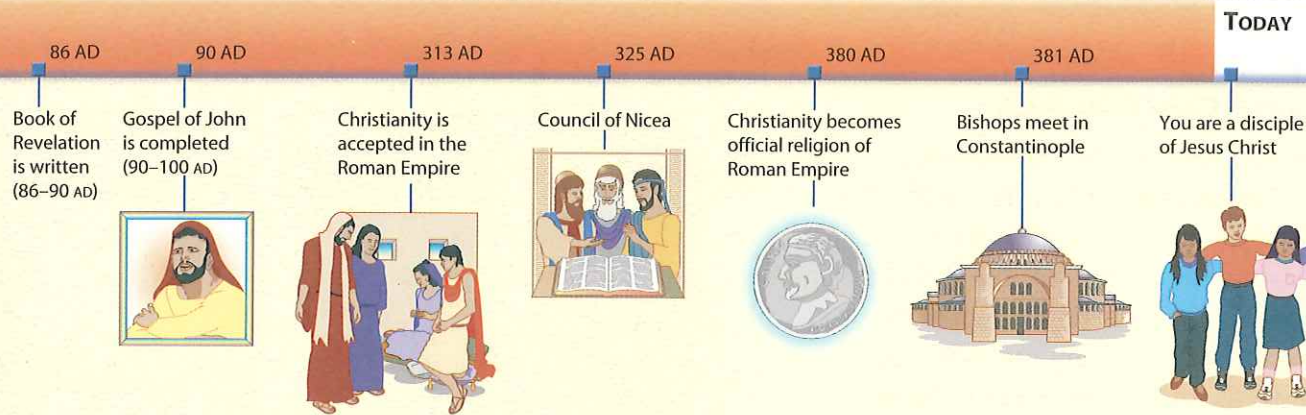
Jesus' message of hope for all those who live the Beatitudes is: "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven" (Matthew 5:12).



Beatitudes (p. 330)



Read about the Beatitudes on the chart on page 251.
Make a mural to show others a way to follow the Beatitudes.



The Beatitudes



Matthew 5:3–10

"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."

Living as Disciples

We should not be overly attached to possessions. Our confidence should be in God.

We are to be signs of hope and comfort to those who suffer injustice and loss.

We realize that our talents and abilities come from God, and we use them to show love for God and others.

We put our trust in God and carry out Christ's work of justice.

We show compassion to all people and will receive love and forgiveness ourselves in God's Kingdom.

We accept God and God's law. As faithful Christians, we find Christ in others.

We are called to be reconcilers in our homes, communities, and world.

We are to live out our Christian faith even when others do not understand our beliefs.

Jesus taught about living and growing closer to God.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? . . . You are the light of the world. . . . your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father" (Matthew 5:13, 14, 16).

Jesus was telling his disciples that just as salt and light were important and necessary, so were they. They were to take an active part in their communities and to serve the Kingdom of God by sharing God's love and life with others.

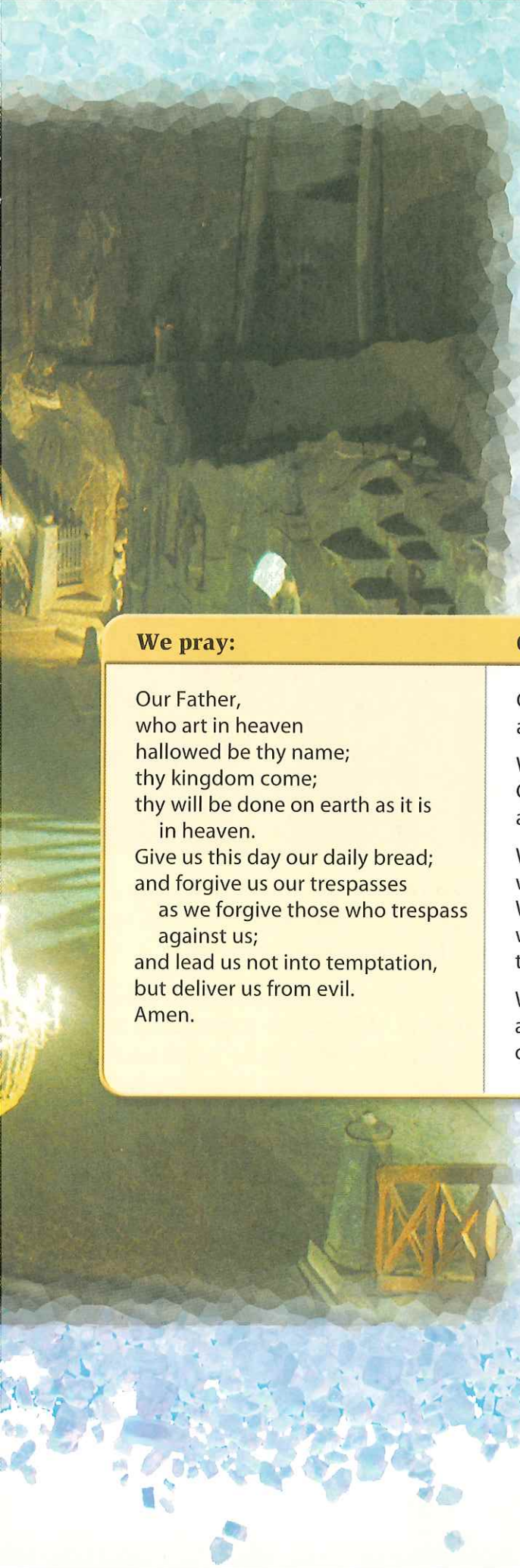


List some benefits of salt and light in our lives.

How can we be like salt and light in our communities? How can we help others to live and grow in God's love?



Catholic cathedral carved in salt mines near Krakow, Poland.



During his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus also taught his disciples about prayer. Jesus himself often prayed in silence and alone. And at times he also prayed with others. Through prayer, the disciples learned to speak to God and listen to God speaking to them.

Jesus told them that God the Father knows what we need before we ask, and Jesus instructed them to pray to God our Father. So Jesus taught the disciples a very special prayer—the Lord’s Prayer, one of the most important prayers in the Gospels and of the Church. This prayer is also called the Our Father. As followers of Jesus Christ, we pray the Lord’s Prayer during Mass and at many other times in our lives. It sums up Jesus’ whole message of trust in and love for the Father.

We pray:

Our Father,
who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is
in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Our words mean:

God is present to all who love him. We have become God’s people and he is our God. We look forward to being with him forever.

We ask God to unite us with the work of Christ and pray for God to bring about his Kingdom. We pray to God for the ability to do his will.

We ask God for everything we need for ourselves and for the world. We use his gifts to work toward his plan of salvation. We ask God to heal us and we ask for forgiveness from others when needed. We follow the example of Christ and forgive those who have hurt us.

We pray that God will protect us from all that could draw us away from his love. We ask him to guide us to choose good in our lives, and we ask him for the strength to follow his law.

Pray the Lord’s Prayer together.



Work in a group and list different ways that prayer can be part of our lives.

Jesus worked signs and wonders among the people.

A miracle is an extraordinary event that is beyond human power and brought about by God. It is an action beyond the ordinary laws of nature. Jesus worked many miracles. They were all signs that he was the Son of God and that the Kingdom of God had arrived in him.

According to the Gospel of John, Jesus performed his first sign or miracle at a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee.



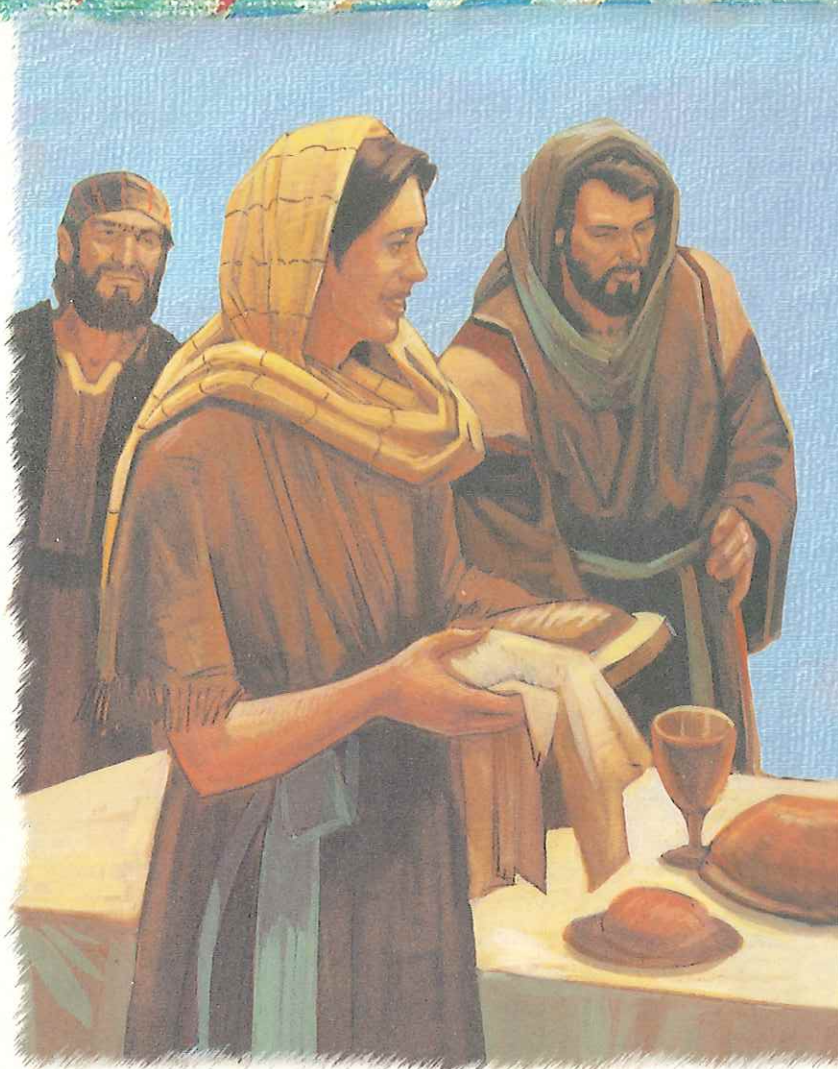
John 2:1-12

One day Jesus and his mother, Mary, and some of Jesus' other disciples went to a wedding in the village of Cana. Cana was a few miles from Nazareth. At the wedding, however, the wine ran out in the middle of the banquet. Mary went to Jesus and told him that there was no more wine. Then Mary told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5).

Jesus listened to his mother Mary. She knew the wedding party needed his help. Jesus pointed to some jars and told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." After they filled them to the top, Jesus said, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter" (John 2:7, 8).

The servants did as he said. But Jesus had changed the water into wine. When the headwaiter tasted it, he was amazed that the wine was so good. He called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now" (John 2:10).

Through this miracle, Jesus revealed his divinity. His followers began to see who Jesus was and to believe in him and praise God.



Signs and Wonders Everywhere Jesus went, to villages, towns, or farms, he helped those who expressed faith in him.

Once two blind men followed Jesus asking him for help. When Jesus approached them, he asked if they believed he could help them. They said yes, and Jesus touched their eyes saying, "Let it be done for you according to your faith" (Matthew 9:29). Immediately their eyes were opened, and they could see.

Some of Jesus' miracles involved nature or everyday needs, such as calming a storm or feeding a multitude of people. We learn that as Jesus' disciples were crossing the sea in a boat, a great storm frightened them. Jesus "rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm" (Matthew 8:26).



Another time Jesus was worried about a crowd of thousands of people who had been listening to him preach and had had nothing to eat. Among all the people there were only seven loaves of bread and a few fish. Jesus gave thanks and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to give to the people. “They all ate and were satisfied. They picked up the fragments left over—seven baskets full.”

(Matthew 15:37)

Jesus worked miracles because he loved people, especially those suffering and in need. He wanted them to have his Father’s comfort and peace in their lives. He also wanted to strengthen their belief in the power of God’s love and forgiveness. Through signs and his deep compassion and concern for others, the Kingdom of God continued to be made known.

WE RESPOND



How can you show that you are Jesus’ disciple? Write one or two things you will do this week.



PROJECT

Show What *you* Know

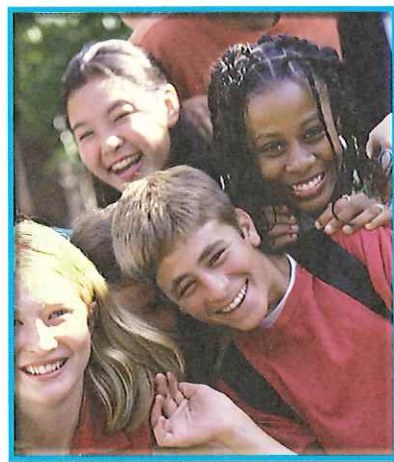
Write the first part of each Beatitude in different squares. Then, write the remaining part of the Beatitudes in the other squares. Cover each square with paper. With a partner, play a Beatitude Memory Game by choosing squares to find each match.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,		for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."	

Reality Check

All kinds of media (TV shows, commercials, Web sites, music, email campaigns) tell us how to find happiness. List a few examples:

As a disciple of Jesus Christ, what do you think of these messages?



In his gift of the Lord's Prayer, Jesus encouraged us to turn to God for all our needs. Pray the Lord's Prayer each day.

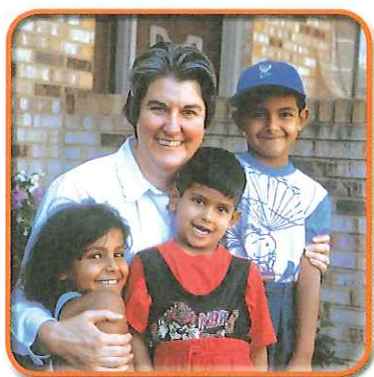
Saint Stories

Saint Angela de Merici was concerned with the lack of education that was available for girls. She founded the Company of Saint Ursula, known as the Ursulines. The Ursulines were the first group of women religious to work outside the cloister and the first teaching order of women. The Church celebrates the feast day of Saint Angela de Merici on January 27.



DISCIPLE CHALLENGE

- What is another name for the Ursulines?
- Underline the phrases that tell what the Ursulines were “first” to do.
- Visit *Lives of the Saints* on www.webelieveweb.com to learn more about Saint Angela de Merici.



Fast Facts

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd provide support to women and families through counseling. They help those in prison and those trying to start their lives again. They staff social service offices, and work to change unjust laws.

What's the Word?

Jesus used parables to teach about the Kingdom of God. Read the parables found in Mark 4:30–32 and Matthew 13:47–50. What is the Kingdom of God compared to in each of these parables?

- DISCIPLE CHALLENGE What image could you use today to explain the Kingdom of God?

Take Home

Read the *Saint Stories* feature about Saint Angela de Merici with your family. Point out that like Jesus, Saint Angela de Merici was a teacher. Invite family members to recall favorite teachers and talk about ways these teachers made a difference in their lives. Discuss ways your family can help educate children throughout the world.

CHAPTER TEST

Underline the correct answer.

1. An extraordinary event that is beyond human power and brought about by God is a **(Beatitude/miracle)**.
2. The **(Torah/Gospel)** is the Good News about God at work in Jesus Christ.
3. The **(Beatitudes/Apostles)** are the teachings of Jesus that describe the way to live as his disciples.
4. The **(Kingdom of God/Lord's Prayer)** is the power of God's love coming into the world and our lives.

Short Answers

5. What message did Jesus give to the people at the Sermon on the Mount?

6. What are two things we ask God when we pray the words of the Lord's Prayer?

7. What did Jesus tell his followers about the Kingdom of God?

8. Why did Jesus work miracles?

Write a paragraph to answer this question.

- 9–10. What did Jesus do to show God's love to people?
