

What are The Beatitudes and What Do They Mean For Christians?

Christianity

Name of Unit: What are The Beatitudes and What Do They Mean For Christians?	Faith: Christianity
Key Stage in which this unit should be taught: Key Stage 2	Recommended Year Group (If specified:)
AT1 Learning About Religion: Beliefs, Teachings and Sources	AT2 Learning From Religion: Values and Commitments
What This Unit Teaches: This unit teaches where The Beatitudes came from, what they are and what they mean for Christians. It asks the pupils to think about the moral decisions that they and (other) Christians make based on The Beatitudes. Pupils are asked to respond to The Beatitudes using a variety of media.	
Key RE Vocabulary: Beatitude blessing Jesus God teaching Mount of Olives Christian moral	Cross Curricular Links: English Drama Maths Art and Design Computing PSHE
Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural Development: <i>Spiritual:</i> Within this unit there are opportunities for pupils to reflect about their own beliefs and perspectives on life and use creativity and imagination in their learning. <i>Moral:</i> What people use to guide them in making decisions and actions, how decisions affect actions and an understanding of consequences. <i>Social:</i> Opportunities for collaborative learning. <i>Cultural:</i> Identify any similarities in other faiths.	Sensitivities: Please be aware that Muslim pupils are not permitted to draw God, human representations or other aspects of God's creation and so flexibility will be needed within the activities that they follow.
Possible Further Extension Activities: Comparing Jesus' teachings with what pupils know about Jewish laws.	
Future Learning: Understanding Faith in . . . Who Decides? (<i>Bridging / Transition Unit</i>)	



Learning Objectives	AT1	AT2	Suggested Teaching Activities	Points To Note
<p>Lessons 1 & 2</p> <p>Pupils should:</p> <p>Make links between Christian beliefs and show how they are connected to believers' lives. (AT1)</p> <p>Consider the moral decisions I and other Christians make. Understand what might happen as a result of those decisions, including those made following The Beatitudes. (AT2)</p>	<p>Aspect A</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>Aspect F</p> <p></p> <p>✓</p>	<p><u>Introduction:</u> Introduce The Beatitudes using one of the following: Child-friendly story of 'The Sermon on the Mount' http://www.dltk-bible.com/cv/sermon_mount.htm or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9ek5YQmBmk or Read The Beatitudes to the pupils (Matthew 5: 1-10) Make sure the pupils understand where we find the Beatitudes. <i>In The Bible, in the Gospel of Matthew.</i></p> <p><u>Main Teaching:</u> Discuss what the pupils think a blessing is. <i>God's favour and protection in our lives.</i> Why do the pupils think Jesus spoke these blessings? Why was it necessary for God to give these blessings?</p> <p>Possible link- Do we always get our own way? No Why? Relate to 'Do we always get what we pray for?'</p> <p>A simple way of explaining what The Beatitudes mean to Christians is 'Be Attitudes' not 'Me Attitudes'.</p> <p>What do The Beatitudes mean for Christians? Print off The Beatitudes and ask the pupils to make them into a 'Diamond 8 / 10' using the criteria Which do you think is most important to Christians? Discuss.</p>	<p>The Beatitudes are a list of blessings from God.</p> <p>They are the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-10). Jesus taught that if Christians live according to the Beatitudes, they will live a blessed Christian life. The Beatitudes fulfil God's promises made to Abraham and his descendants and describe the rewards that Christians will receive as followers of Christ.</p> <p>Resources: Story of the Sermon on the Mount from The Bible or see web links: http://www.dltk-bible.com/cv/sermon_mount.htm or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9ek5YQmBmk</p> <p>Display version of The Beatitudes. Printable versions of The Beatitudes for 'The Diamond 8 / 10'.</p> <p>Materials for the activities selected.</p>



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	✓	✓	<p>Which do you think is most challenging to Christians? Discuss.</p> <p>How might The Beatitudes be used by a Christian?</p> <p>How do they / should they affect the decisions and actions of a Christian?</p> <p>Are there any similarities in other faiths?</p> <p>Do they inform / guide the decisions and actions of you? How?</p> <p>What happens if The Beatitudes are followed?</p> <p>What do these blessings teach us about God?</p> <p><u>Activities:</u> There are many different ways to follow up this learning. Below is a list of some suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Create a board game based on Jesus’ teachings. ✠ Make adverts, using any media, to ‘sell’ one or all of The Beatitudes. ✠ Writing that demonstrates the Beatitudes being lived out. ✠ Research on the Beatitudes being put into practice by others locally / nationally / internationally. ✠ Interview with someone from the school community / church / local area who has lived out the Beatitudes. ✠ Make a pocket guidebook for a Christian to keep with them which contains writing and illustrations of God’s blessings to remind them of these - The Beatitudes. ✠ Write each Beatitude in the form of a quotation (possibly with an illustration) that captures the essence of the Beatitude which could then be made into a set of fridge magnets. 	<p>Sensitivities: Please be aware that Muslim pupils are not permitted to draw God, human representations or other aspects of God’s creation and so flexibility will be needed within the activities that they follow.</p>



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	✓	✓	<p>✠ Record through photographs and captions the Beatitudes being lived out in and around school, these could then make up a permanent display around the school.</p> <p>✠ Create an image, 3D sculpture, photo montage, freeze frame or symbol to represent a particular Beatitude or the set of them.</p> <p>These could make up a display, banner etc. There are examples of children’s art work to support this on The Spirited Arts website: http://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/introduction/</p> <p>✠ Pupils to write and present their own set of Beatitudes; these could be for everyone or particularly focusing for an area / group, e.g. Beatitudes for the area that the school is in, Beatitudes for Children, etc.</p> <p><u>Plenary:</u> Share each others’ work and reflect on what we can learn from the Beatitudes in relation to the way we live our life, now and in the future.</p>	

