MISSION LESSON
DAY 4: THE BEATITUDES

BIBLE VERSE:
Matthew 5:3-10 - “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
   Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.
   Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.
   Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
   Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.
   Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.
   Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.
   Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

THINGS YOU MIGHT USE – ACTIVITY:
- Several sheets of the Beatitudes printed out (one set for each group).
- Cut the Beatitudes into their two parts.

To begin the matching lesson, have your students sit in groups of three or four. Each group will have slips of paper with the first part of the Beatitude, and also slips of paper with the second part of the Beatitude. Mix up the separated pieces. The children will work together to match the Beatitudes to the correct ending/conclusion.

Example: First, they pull out the slip of paper, “Blessed are the merciful.” Second, they will try to find the match, “For they shall obtain mercy.”

They will continue until all the Beatitudes are matched correctly. They can play this game several times (as time allows). There should be enough discussion to discern that the children are not only get the matching “correct,” but that they also understand the concept/principle presented.

ASK: WHAT IS A BEATITUDE?
Beatitude means exalted (great or the highest) happiness. (Be prepared to give an age appropriate example to start this discussion.)

* Ask a few of the children to share their favorite Beatitude and explain what it means to them.

* When you read the Beatitudes, how does it make you feel? (Does it give comfort or hope?). The Beatitudes are a beautiful promise of the great happiness we will have one day in heaven.

* Pick out your favorite Beatitude, write it out, and look at it throughout the week. Pray for an opportunity to share it with a friend this week.

* Be reminded: the Beatitudes are presented in a positive sense by Jesus. These virtues will lead to reward in this world and in the next, which is the kingdom of heaven.

ASK: HOW DO THE BEATITUDES RELATE TO MISSIONS?
The Beatitudes relate to missions as a part of the discipleship process. Do you remember what we said yesterday about discipleship? Effective discipleship means choosing to always remain a student, staying close to Christ, and following his lead.
REMEMBER...
As you live on mission with God, after salvation comes discipleship. Applying the Beatitudes in your life is one way that will help you become a more effective disciple of Christ and witness to others!