

A large, leafy tree with a thick, gnarled trunk and a dense canopy of green leaves. The tree is set in a field of green grass and ferns. The background shows more trees and a bright sky. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

BibleTelling®
life of Christ

Unit 4

Telling Story 10 - The Sermon on the Mount (Part 1)

Part One - The Beatitudes

Jesus went up on a mountain so he could teach his disciples. He sat down and started explaining to them what it meant to be a disciple of Messiah, and how to live a life that was pleasing to God. He started with:

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
- Blessed are those who mourn, because they will be comforted.
- Blessed are the gentle, because they will inherit the earth.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they will be filled.
- Blessed are the merciful, because they will receive mercy.

- Blessed are the pure in heart, because they will see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be known as the children of God.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you because of Me. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, because great is your reward in heaven. That is how they persecuted the prophets who came before you.

If you do these things, you will be the salt of the earth. You will be the light of the world. People will see it and glorify God.

- Storyboard -

Imagine walking along a path. It goes past two poor people, up a hill to where a gentleman is working in his garden, and down the other side to where two mobs of people are fighting.

You stop and try to help the two poor people. You reach in your pocket, but you find only one "Kingdom of Heaven" coin. You give it to the person who is poor in spirit and then try to comfort the other one who is "mourning" because he didn't get one. *Blessed are the poor in spirit, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Blessed are those who mourn, because they will be comforted.*

Going up the hill, you meet the "gentle" man and find out that he inherited the entire earth! He asks if you are hungry and thirsty, and then feeds you until you are full. *Blessed are the gentle, because they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they will be filled.*

He says he knows two things about you. (1) You were merciful, so "You will receive mercy." (2) He also knows that you have a pure heart, so you will see God. *"Blessed are the merciful, because they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, because they will see God."*

You leave the gentleman and go down the hill where two mobs of people are fighting one another. You try

to make peace between them, but they turn on you. One says, "I know who you are. You are a child of God!" This makes them mad so they start persecuting you and throwing things at you.

Suddenly a "Kingdom of Heaven" coin hits you. *Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*

Someone yells out, "Not only is he a child of God, but he is also a follower of Jesus." With that they start insulting you and persecuting you. Suddenly a voice says to you, "Rejoice and be glad."

You ask, "Why?" So the voice says, "Look up here. Your reward is great in heaven, Now look behind you (in history). This is how they persecuted the prophets." *Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you because of Me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. That is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

You decide to take a closer look at your reward in heaven. Suddenly you realize it is a large saltshaker – with a bright light behind it. *If you do these things, you will be the salt of the earth. You will be the light of the world. People will see it and glorify God.*

Telling Story 11 - Forgiving Sins

Mark 2:1-12, Matthew 9:9-13

THE PARALYZED MAN

Jesus returned to Capernaum and went into a house to teach the people. When word got around that He was there, the house was soon filled to overflowing! People were standing in the doorway and outside the house. Some Pharisees and teachers of the Law were also there.

Four men came to the house carrying a paralyzed man on a cot. They quickly realized that there was no way to get into the house and close to Jesus. So they carried the man on his cot up the outside stairs onto the roof of the house. There they made an opening in the roof by removing the tiles. When it was big enough they lowered the man down right into the middle of the crowd and in front of Jesus.

THE ANGRY RULERS

When Jesus saw the faith of the four men, He turned and said to the man lying on the cot, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

The religious rulers were horrified. They thought to themselves, "How dare this man say such things! He is speaking blasphemies! Only God can forgive sins."

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he said, "Why are you so troubled in your thoughts? I could have easily said, 'Rise up and walk,' but you needed to know that the Son of Man has the authority to forgive sins."

He then said to the man, "Get up, pick up your cot, and go home."

Immediately the man got up, picked up his cot, and walked out in front of them all. People were amazed and glorified God. They said, "We have never seen anything like this before."

MATTHEW

After that Jesus left the house and walked towards the seashore. Along the way he saw a tax collector named Matthew sitting at the tax booth. The Jewish people hated tax collectors. Jesus stopped and said to him, "Matthew, follow me." Immediately, Matthew left everything and followed Jesus.

Soon afterwards, Matthew hosted a meal for Jesus in his house. He invited many other tax collectors. They came as well as others of low reputation.

The religious leaders were appalled! They said to his disciples, "Why is your Master eating with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus heard what they said, so he answered them. "Doctors are for people who are sick, not for people who are well. I have not come to work with people who think they are righteous. I am calling sinners to repentance."

Drawing the Storyboard

Draw the storyboard using the boxes below.

The Paralyzed Man

The Angry Rulers

Matthew

History and Customs

Tax Collectors and Sinners, Eating Together

Tax Collectors and Sinners

The Roman government occupied Israel during the time of Christ. The taxes levied on Jewish families amounted to about one-third of their annual wage. This money was used to pay the wages of Roman soldiers and to fund the Romans' many construction projects.

Jewish tax collectors were called *publicans* because they were employees of the Roman government and collected public revenue. Jewish people hated publicans, and considered them traitors. To make things worse, tax collectors were allowed to collect more than the actual amount owed for taxes. These men became wealthy by greatly overcharging the people and keeping the extra money for themselves!

- In Israel, tax collectors could not hold political positions in their communities.
- They were not allowed to give testimony in Jewish courts.
- They were not welcome at social gatherings.
- They were regarded on the same level as robbers, adulterers, and other evildoers.
- Some religious leaders said it was impossible

for tax collectors to genuinely repent, since they could not possibly make restitution for what they had taken from others.

- The only friends tax collectors had were people who were moral and social outcasts like themselves. Therefore Matthew invited "tax collectors and sinners" to his feast.

Eating Together

Having a meal with someone is an important symbol around the world. It is universally held that to share food is to share life. In many cultures, eating with someone creates a bond of fellowship. During the time of Christ, sharing a meal was a sign of fellowship and of community. It was a social and interpersonal experience.

The Jews felt that eating together was also a religious experience. It was a way to celebrate their faith, and included very specific rules about what happened around the table. Cleanliness was essential. They were to have clean food, clean dishes, clean hands, and clean hearts. A proper Jewish meal was a worship service in which believers honored God by sanctifying a common experience in their lives.

1. The _____ government occupied Israel during the time of Christ.
2. The _____ levied on Jewish families amounted to about _____ of their annual wage.
3. This money was used to pay the wages of Roman _____ and to fund the Romans' many _____ projects.
4. Jewish tax collectors were called _____ because they were employees of the Roman government and collected _____ revenue.
5. The Jewish people hated publicans, and considered them _____.
6. Many tax collectors became wealthy by greatly _____ the people and keeping the extra money for _____.
7. Tax collectors were regarded on the same level as _____, adulterers, and other _____.
8. The only _____ tax collectors had were people that were moral and social _____.
9. During the time of Christ, sharing a _____ was a sign of _____ and of community.
10. The Jews felt that _____ together was also a _____ experience.

Telling Story 12 - Calling the Twelve

Matt 10:1-39, Matt 12:9-15, Mark 3:14-19, Luke 6:6-16

TWELVE DISCIPLES

One evening, Jesus left the crowd and climbed a mountain to be alone and to talk with his Father. He prayed the entire night.

At daybreak, he came off the mountain and called a select group of disciples to himself. These were to stay with him so he could teach them and prepare them to preach. He gave them power to heal the sick and cast out demons.

- The first one was Simon, who was renamed Peter.
- Andrew was the brother of Peter.
- James and his brother John were called "the sons of thunder."
- The next two are Philip and Bartholomew.
- Thomas was a twin (Later on he would be called "Doubting Thomas")
- Matthew had been a tax collector.
- There is another James, so he became known as "James the Less".
- Thaddaeus was also called Judas, but he is not the one that betrayed Jesus.
- There is another Simon, and his nickname was "the Zealot".
- Finally we have Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus.

SENDING OUT THE TWELVE

He sent his disciples out to teach the people. He said, "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as wise as snakes, yet harmless as doves.

People will hate you just like they have hated me. But don't be afraid. The Father is watching over you. He knows when a sparrow falls to the ground, and you are more valuable than a sparrow. He has even numbered the hairs on your head."

"Be bold and acknowledge me openly, just as I acknowledge you in heaven before my Father. Members of your family will want you to be loyal to them instead of Me. If you choose their approval, you are not worthy of Me. If you follow Me, you are to take up your cross and bear My shame.

If you find a life without Me, you will lose it, and if you lose your life because of Me, you will find it."

HEALING A CRIPPLED HAND

Jesus went to a synagogue to teach, and in the crowd there was a man with a crippled hand. Some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law were there as well. They had come because they thought this was their opportunity to catch Jesus breaking God's Law. The Biblical Law said a person was not to work on the Sabbath, and they considered Jesus to be working when he healed someone. They asked him, "Is it legal to heal on the Sabbath?"

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he told the man with a crippled hand, "Get up and stand here." So he got up and stood before them all.

Jesus then turned to his accusers and said, "I have a question for you. Is it legal to do good on the Sabbath, or to do evil? Is it better to save life or destroy it?" They did not answer him, but kept silent.

"If you had a sheep that fell into a pit on the Sabbath, you would not hesitate to pull it out of that pit. A person is better than a sheep! Therefore I will answer your question. Yes, it is absolutely legal to do good on the Sabbath."

He then turned to the man with the crippled hand. "Stretch out your hand!"

The man stretched out his hand, and when he did, it was healed and as strong as his other one.

This infuriated the religious rulers, and they immediately started discussing how they could kill Jesus.

Storyboard

The following activities will help you remember the flow of the story.

TWELVE DISCIPLES

(Imagine these word pictures)

four brothers who own a barn ...

Simon Peter and his brother Andrew,

James and his brother John

at the barn, we see ...

A tomcat (Thomas) lying on a mat (Matthew)

The barn (Bartholomew) is filled up (Philip) with milk

Inside the barn we find out that ...

Simon is zealous about the milk (Simon the Zealot)

but James is less excited (James the Less)

Judas is scared of (Judas Iscariot)

getting "faddaeus" pointing to his stomach (Thaddaeus)

SENDING OUT THE TWELVE

(continuation of barn story)

Next to the barn is a fence. Inside the fence is a sheep with a wolf sneaking up on it from outside the fence
(like sheep among wolves)

The wolf jumps away because he sees a snake.

Just then a dove lands on the fence.
(wise as serpents, yet harmless as doves)

The wolf turns and growls at the sheep.
(people will hate you)

Farmer tells sheep, "Don't be afraid. I'll watch over you."
(Don't be afraid. The Father is watching over you)

Nearby, a sparrow falls to the ground
(more valuable than a sparrow).

The farmer sees it and wonders what happened, so he scratches his head. (numbered the hairs on your head)

(back to normal storyboard)

hold up fist
be bold

point to self
acknowledge me

point up

like I acknowledge you before my Father

sign language for family
members of your family

hand on heart
loyal to them

hand out
not worthy of me

point to self

If you follow me

hold cross on shoulder
take up your cross

look down & hand over eyes
bear my shame

both hands together over heart
If you find your life

hand out
without me

other hand swings down
you will lose it

hand swings down
If you lose your life

other hand to self
because of me

both hands together
you will find it

CRIPPLED HAND

hold hand as if crippled
man with a crippled hand

hold vest to show pride
Pharisees were there, too

points to crippled hand
legal to heal on the Sabbath?

hand in middle of chest
do good?

other hand pushing out
do evil?

both hands lifting up
save life?

knife into hand
destroy it?

both hands lifting
rescuing sheep

stretch out hand
"Stretch out your hand."

both fists in air
angered religious rulers