

SERMON ON THE MOUNT – Matthew 5-7 (NiRV) – script for Children’s Church – Mar week 1

Give each child a small paper bag with “Sermon on the Mount” written on it. Have them write their names on the bags. After each section, give the kids the appropriate slip of paper and an item to add to their bag.

(Could have one of the kids read the text on the slip of paper.)

Bold faced – Jesus’ words to read

Blue – questions to ask the kids

Purple – optional parts to demonstrate

Red – items for the kids to put in their bags

❶ **Jesus saw the crowds. So he went up on a mountainside and sat down...then he began to teach them.** (Mt 5:1-2)

(Why were the people trying to get close to Jesus - why did the people want to see and hear him?)

Jesus said, “Blessed are those who show mercy. They will be shown mercy.” (Mt 5:7)

(Mercy is forgiving people and still being friends with them even when they mess up. And why should we be nice to other people? Repeat the memory verse!)

Jesus said, “Blessed are those whose hearts are pure. They will see God.” (Mt 5:8)

(When will they see God? Do you want to see God?)

Jesus said, “Blessed are those who make peace. They will be called children of God.” (Mt 5:9)

(How can you “make peace”?)

Add a wood cross to the bag.

❷ **Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. People do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven.”** (Mt 5:14-16)

(Turn off the lights and demonstrate with a flashlight and a bucket. Does it do any good to hide a flashlight? What does that mean “let your light shine” – what is your light? Does it do any good if you know about Jesus and God but you never tell anybody or do good things like Jesus did?)

Add a glow-in-the-dark star to the bag.

❸ **Jesus said, “Some people say that you should ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But here is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. Then you will be children of your Father who is in heaven.”** (Mt 5:43-45)

(Is that hard or easy – to be nice to people who hurt you? Was Jesus nice to people who hurt him? When he was on the cross, he told God to forgive even the people who were hurting him.)

Add a red plastic heart to the bag.

④ Jesus said, “This is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Keep us from falling into sin when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one.’ ” (Mt 6:9-13)

(Read again, and ask questions like: Who is our Father in heaven? Does Jesus say to ask God for a lots of toys? What did Jesus ask God for? Who is the “evil one”? etc. Is this a long prayer or a short prayer? Does it have lots of big, fancy words? Can you understand it pretty well?)

Add a praying hands cut-out to the bag.

⑤ Jesus said, “Do not put away riches for yourselves on earth. Moths and rust can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, put away riches for yourselves in heaven. There, moths and rust do not destroy them. There, thieves do not break in and steal them. Your heart will be where your riches are.” (Mt 6:19-21)

(What happens to nice clothes, nice cars, nice toys, etc. after awhile? Do they keep forever? What sorts of things do keep forever, in heaven? [trusting God, being nice, etc.]

Add a penny to the bag.

⑥ Jesus said, “I tell you, do not worry. Don't worry about your life and what you will eat or drink. And don't worry about your body and what you will wear. Isn't there more to life than eating? Aren't there more important things for the body than clothes? Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant or gather crops. They don't keep crops in barns. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? Can you add even one hour to your life by worrying?” (Mt 6:25-27)

(What does Jesus say about the birds – do they worry or plant food or build barns? Who takes care of them? And who will take care of you? I think sometimes adults need this part way more than kids do!!!)

Add a feather to the bag.

⑦ Jesus said, “Do not judge others. Then you will not be judged. You will be judged in the same way you judge others. You will be measured in the same way you measure others. You look at the bit of sawdust in your friend's eye. But you pay no attention to the piece of wood in your own eye. How can you say to your friend, 'Let me take the bit of sawdust out of your eye'? How can you say this while there is a piece of wood in your own eye? You pretender! First take the piece of wood out of your own eye. Then you will be able to see clearly to take the bit of sawdust out of your friend's eye.” (Mt 7:1-5)

(Demonstrate with a big stick and a small toothpick. Does it make sense for me to laugh at [Brenna or whomever] about a toothpick or try to take it out if I have a big stick in my eye? Jesus is saying that you shouldn't tell somebody else that they are really bad and you can fix them if you have problems too. Are you perfect? Who was the only person to ever live who was perfect? These verses says that you shouldn't “judge” other people – that means you shouldn't say they are bad and wrong and always think you are the only one who is right. You should remember that everybody makes mistakes and needs to be forgiven sometimes. Remember our memory verse?)

Add a popsicle stick to the bag.

⑧ Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given to you... Suppose your son asks for bread. Which of you will give him a stone? Or suppose he asks for a fish. Which of you will give him a snake? You know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Mt 7:7-11)
(Demonstrate with pretend bread/stone and/or fish/snake [Jenny has, or use play food from the pre-school room]. If you ask your mom or dad for some food, would they give you a rock or a snake? So if you ask God for good things, what will he give you – good things or bad things? So it's okay to ask God for good things – how do we ask him? [we pray!])

Add a foam fish sticker to the bag.

⑨ Jesus said, “In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you. This is what is written in the Law and in the Prophets.” Mt 7:12
(The “Law and the Prophets” means the Old Testament. Jesus is saying that what God wants, what he told the people all during Old Testament times, is to be nice to others and treat them the way you want them to treat you. Let's say our memory verse together....)

Add a small scroll with the memory verse to the bag.

①① Jesus said, “So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock. But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. And it falls with a loud crash.” (Mt 7:24-27)

(Does that sound familiar? That’s a song we know, right – The Wise Man Foolish Man song. What Jesus is saying here – what the song is saying – is that if you don’t trust in God, if you trust in money, or a nice house, or how smart you are, or in the devil, then your life will be like a house built on sand.)

Add a rock with a cross on it to the bag.