I need God's help

Matthew 5:1-3; Luke 18:9-14

> God welcomes us to depend on him instead of pretending we have everything we need.

What children should be able to do by the end

Explain that poor in spirit means knowing we need God, and suggest a simple prayer for help.

Read & gather

Read aloud: Matthew 5:1-3; Luke 18:13-14. Memory passage: Matthew 5:3.

Basic kit: Bible, paper, pencils or crayons, child-safe scissors, glue or tape. Optional pre-drawn hand outlines; no purchased materials needed.

Before class, read the full passage and the activity example. Practice unfamiliar names and choose an age adaptation.

Words to explain

Beatitudes: the blessings Jesus announces. Blessed: receiving God's favor and care, even in difficulty. Poor in spirit: knowing we need God. Kingdom: life under God's good rule.

Your 60-minute flow

0-5 minutes | Welcome & wonder

Use Welcome & wonder on page 2. Invite answers and allow children to listen quietly.

5-10 minutes | Worship & prayer

Offer thanks to God. Sing a familiar, church-approved song or speak a line of praise. Listening quietly is welcome.

10-15 minutes | Bible & memory

Find the reading together. Read the memory passage from your Bible. Repeat short phrases with simple gestures.

15-27 minutes | Discover the story

Read the named verses. Use the three retelling paragraphs and The Jesus connection on page 2.

27-35 minutes | Talk it through

Ask the three questions on page 2, one at a time. Give thinking time and use the answer guidance.

35-50 minutes | Create & practice

Use the purpose, example, and steps on page 3. Then use the separate Student Discovery Page on page 4. Unfinished drawing may go home.

50-55 minutes | Respond & pray

Connect the big idea with a choice this week. Offer voluntary prayer or quiet reflection.

55-60 minutes | Remember & take home

Use the learning check on page 3 and repeat the main teaching. Tidy supplies and give caregivers the Family Connection on page 5.

I need God's help

Matthew 5:1-3; Luke 18:9-14

Welcome & wonder

Hold out empty hands, then tightly closed fists. Ask which posture could receive a gift. Everyone may show or describe open hands; explain that no hand position makes God love us more.

Tell the story

Read the passage in your preferred translation. NIV is our reference translation; this is an original retelling, not a Bible quotation.

1. Jesus went up a mountainside, sat down, and taught his disciples while crowds were nearby. His teaching began with surprising blessings. People often think the strongest, richest, or most admired people have the best life. Jesus pointed instead to people who depend on God. Being blessed means more than feeling cheerful or having easy days.

2. The first blessing is for the poor in spirit. This is not an instruction to dislike ourselves or a description of how much money a family has. It means recognizing our need for God rather than presenting ourselves as spiritually self-sufficient. Jesus connects these people with the kingdom of heaven: they belong under God's gracious rule.

3. In another teaching, Jesus described two people praying. One compared himself favorably with others; the other asked God for mercy. Jesus commended the humble request. A child can be gifted, confident, and loved while still needing forgiveness, wisdom, and help. We can come honestly to God without building an impressive record first.

The Jesus connection

> Jesus brings us into God's kingdom by grace. We receive his welcome through trust, and his Spirit helps us grow.

Talk it through

Where was Jesus when he began this teaching?

On a mountainside, teaching his disciples with crowds nearby.

Does poor in spirit mean having no value?

No. It means admitting our need for God, while knowing we matter to him.

What can we do instead of pretending to know everything?

Ask God for wisdom and receive help from trustworthy people.

I need God's help

Matthew 5:1-3; Luke 18:9-14

Open hands, honest prayers

Why children are doing this: Children practice admitting a need and asking God for help without calling themselves worthless.

Teacher example: For a confusing Bible story, say: God, please help me understand. Draw an open Bible and a trusted teacher beside the open hands.

Teacher instructions: Explain one step at a time and help children try it. Children may draw or tell you their answers.

1. Spend 3 minutes tracing or drawing two open hands on paper. Inside one write GOD GIVES; inside the other write I CAN ASK. Provide pre-drawn hands or an adult scribe.

2. Spend 4 minutes reading these invented situations: Sam hides a mistake; Jo cannot understand a Bible story; Lee boasts that help is for losers. Partners choose a humble next step for each.

3. Spend 4 minutes adding pictures of forgiveness, wisdom, and help around the hands. Practice a one-sentence prayer for one situation, without sharing private mistakes.

4. Use the final 4 minutes for the Student Discovery Page and a partner explanation: We need God, and we can come to him. Take unfinished drawing home.

Grades 1-2

Offer pictures of a question mark, a helping hand, and a heart. Children point to the help needed and dictate a prayer.

Grades 3-5

Compare healthy confidence with pride. Explain why receiving grace is different from earning a place in God's family.

Offer movement breaks, a quiet space, picture choices, or an adult scribe. Adapt to the child, not only the grade.

Teach with care

Never call a child spiritually poor as an insult. Distinguish dependence on God from financial poverty. These blessings describe kingdom life; they are not eight ways to purchase salvation.

Prayer invitation

Father, we need your grace and wisdom. Thank you for welcoming us through Jesus. Help us receive your help.

Check what children learned

Finish: I can be loved and capable, and still need __.

Student Discovery Page: answer guide

1. Honest needs. 2. Needing God. 3. Humility.

Drawings and personal responses vary. Look for understanding rather than polished artwork.

I need God's help

Matthew 5:1-3; Luke 18:9-14

Name: _____ Date: _____

God welcomes us to depend on him instead of pretending we have everything we need.

Explore the story

Circle the answer that fits the story.

We can come to God with honest needs / a perfect record

Poor in spirit means having no worth / needing God

Asking for help can show humility / failure

Draw & discover

Draw open hands receiving a reminder of God's kindness.

Think about it

How can asking for help show courage?

You can write, draw, point, or tell someone your answer.

I need God's help

Matthew 5:1-3; Luke 18:9-14

A LITTLE FAITH, EVERY DAY

> God welcomes us to depend on him instead of pretending we have everything we need.

Open the Bible together

Read Matthew 5:1-3; Luke 18:13-14. Let your child retell one part. Write down a question to ask a trusted church leader; you do not need to have all the answers.

Start a conversation

What does poor in spirit mean, and what does it not mean?

Try this during the week

Read Matthew 5:3. Let an adult name one ordinary way they need God's wisdom. Each person may pray a short request for help; no one has to share a private problem.

A prayer to share

Father, we need your grace and wisdom. Thank you for welcoming us through Jesus. Help us receive your help.

Remember together

Look up Matthew 5:3 in your family Bible. Read a short phrase, repeat it together, and ask what it means.

Keep it simple and welcoming

A few unhurried minutes are enough. Children may respond with words, drawings, or gestures. Prayer is an invitation; quiet participation belongs too.

This curriculum serves mixed groups in grades 1-5 in an evangelical setting. Retellings and prayers are original. NIV is our reference translation; use your church's preferred Bible translation. No extended Bible text is reproduced.