

FAMILY TIME WITH JESUS

Seek First the Kingdom of God

Scripture: Matthew 6:25-34

Verse: “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be give to you as well.” Matthew 6:33

Concept: God knows what we need and because of His deep love and concern for us, He continually works on our behalf to take care of us. We need to rely on God and allow Him to meet our needs and care for us as we seek Him, putting Him first in our lives.

Read the Scripture reference together.

Illustration to use with the Scripture reference:

A family is going out on a picnic, but everyone is griping and complaining. It will surely rain today. It always does this time of year. The chicken is overdone. The icing on the cake will melt. We have worn clothes that are too heavy and will be uncomfortable. The kids complain about the park. They want to be at home with their friends. Everybody has some sort of complaint. No body seems to be happy about anything.

A family of birds were sitting on a branch and listening to these humans complaining and griping about everything. As they sat and listened to them, they began to talk to each other about what they saw. “These silly humans sure don’t know how much God loves them. God takes care of us and our family. Don’t they know that God will take care of them and meet their needs? They don’t even seem thankful for what they do have. They seem to be so unhappy and miserable.

As they were talking about this family, another family came by to another picnic area. The birds thought they would fly over to another nearby tree to see what this family would do. Are all these people alike they thought? As the family arrived, they began to spread their picnic out on the table. The children began running around all excited....playing with their ball and seemingly very happy about their day. As they prepared to sit down for their picnic, the kids spotted a group of ducks near the pond. As they watched looking around for food to eat, their father began to use this time to remind his children how God takes care of the ducks and birds to provide food for them; and how much more God takes care of everything we have need of. As they talked about this together, the family of birds noticed them bow their heads and each one gave thanks of the picnic and

the time they could be together as a family. As they ate their picnic, each one shared how God had taken care of them during the week.

As the birds continued to watch, they too were talking of the difference between these two families. If only the complaining family could realize that complaints could be changed into statements of thanksgiving, how much happier they would be. If they only could realize how much their Heavenly Father loves them and wants them to know He does provide for their needs. As they flew away, they were happy to know that all humans were not as the first family they watched. "Let's hope someone will tell them the good news about the God Who loves and cares for them each and every day. Then they too can be happy as we are."

Discussion together:

1. Do we sometimes forget that God takes care of us and start complaining? Talk how complaining can be the same as telling God that we don't think He takes very good care of us. Why do we complain?
2. Talk about the difference between needs and wants.
3. Talk about how what we say and do influences others who may hear what we say.
4. The Scripture talks about seeking God's kingdom and righteousness first. What does that mean and how do we do that?
5. What happens if we seek other things first and God second?
6. Have each one share how God takes care of them.

A Family Activity:

Have a picnic in your front room together. Spread a blanket on the floor and prepare your family's favorite picnic foods. Talk about how you put God first in your life and the benefits of that commitment. If you have pictures of your vacations or a picnic look at these and talk about special memories regarding these family times. Maybe plan for another family time together.



GOD WANTS TO BLESS US

There are 8 Scripture references below as well as 8 verses. As you look up the Scripture references, write the Scripture and its reference beside the correct verse and fill in the missing blanks.

Genesis 12:3
Psalm 67:1

Psalm 29:11
Deuteronomy 28:2

Proverbs 28:20
Numbers 6:24

Psalm 115:13
Ephesians 1; 3

1. "The _____ bless you, and _____ you."

2. "A _____ man shall _____ with blessings."

3. "Blessed be the God and _____ of our _____ Jesus Christ, who has _____ us with all _____ blessings in _____ places in Christ."

4. "And all these blessings shall come on you, and _____ you, if you listen to the _____ of the Lord your God."

5. "He will bless them that _____ the Lord, both _____ and great."

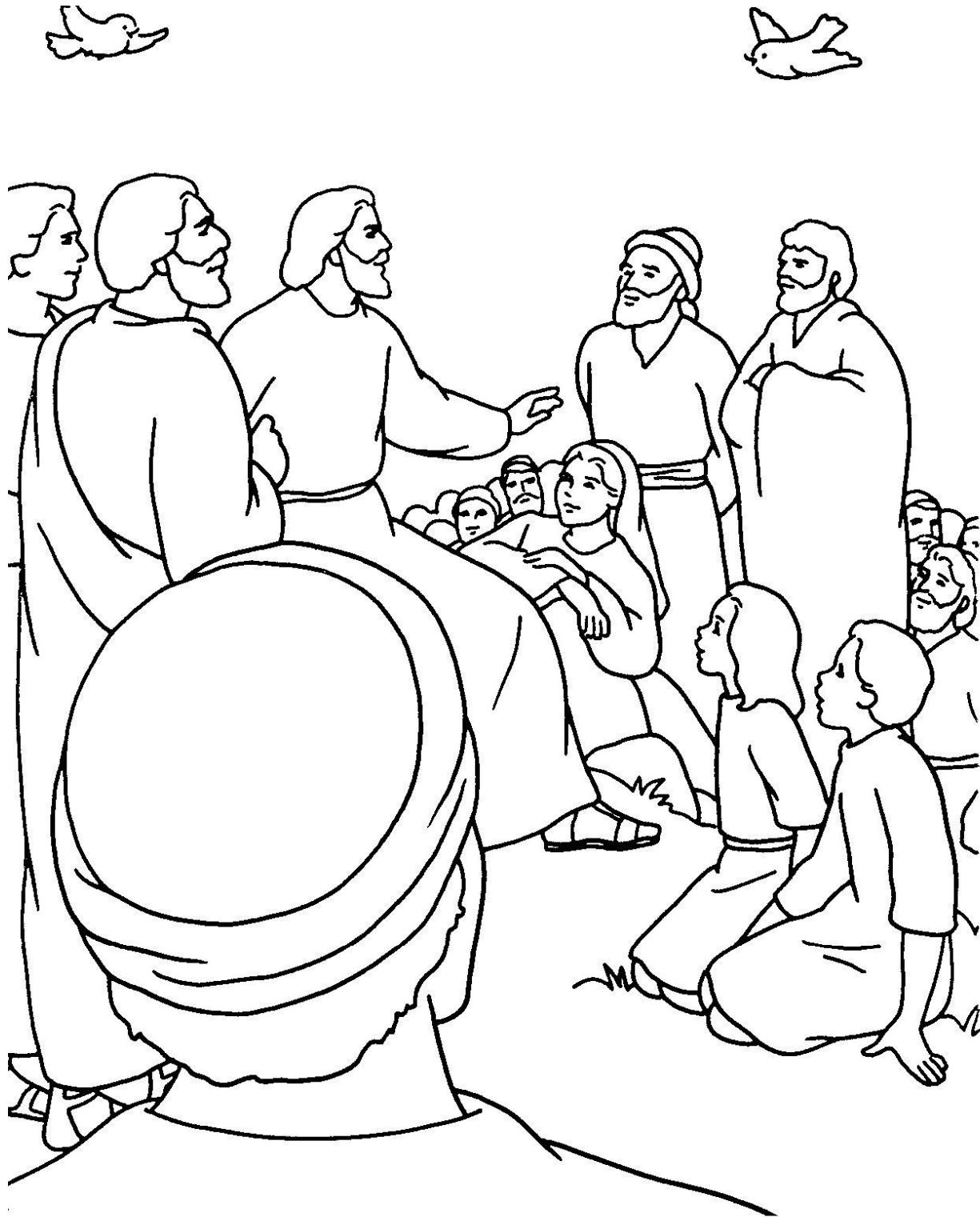
6. "The Lord will give _____ unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with _____."

7. "And I will bless them that bless you, and _____ him that curses you: and in you shall all _____ of the earth be blessed."

8. "God be _____ unto us, and bless us; and cause his
_____ to shine upon us."

The family below is like our happy family in our story. They know God provides for them.
Color this picture.





JESUS TOLD THE PEOPLE THAT THEY SHOULD SEEK THINGS ABOUT HIM ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE.