



## Living Blessed Lives in Jesus

Set up an altar with an open Bible, a crucifix, candles (unlit), a globe to represent the missions, and a World Mission Rosary which can be obtained from the Missionary Childhood Office.

**Leader:** While sitting on a mountain, Jesus taught the Beatitudes to the surrounding crowd and his disciples. The Beatitudes are statements of happiness that, along with the Ten Commandments, teach us how to lead holy, faith-filled lives. They show us how to live daily, keeping Christ in our hearts, and putting others first. If we follow these instructions from Jesus, we will live lives that bless ourselves and others.

**Reader 1:** As we listen to God's word today, let us be mindful of His message, asking ourselves "Am I living a blessed life?"

**Reader 2:** A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (MT 5:3-12):

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### ***Pause for silent reflection***

**Reader 1:** Jesus gave us these teachings as a way to live in order to achieve eternal life in Heaven.

**Reader 2:** Our response is: Lord, help us to live blessed lives so that others may be blessed.

**Reader 1:** For children in **Iraq** who are persecuted because of their faith, we pray:

**All: Lord, help us to live blessed lives so that others may be blessed.**

**Reader 2:** For children in **Ethiopia** who wake up and go to bed hungry and thirsty, we pray:

**All: Lord, help us to live blessed lives so that others may be blessed.**

**Reader 1:** For children in **Brazil**, who's families suffer from social injustice with no land to call their own, we pray:

**All: Lord, help us to live blessed lives so that others may be blessed.**

**Reader 2:** For children in **Vanuatu** who are mourning the loss of their parents after last year's devastating typhoon, we pray:

**All: Lord, help us to live blessed lives so that others may be blessed.**

**Reader 1:** For children in the **Ukraine** who live with the threat of war in their daily lives, we pray:

**All: Lord, help us to live blessed lives so that others may be blessed.**

**Leader:** God our Father, you have given us many gifts, asking only that we share them with those who have less than we do. Help us to live blessed lives as we have been taught through The Beatitudes. We pray that the children in the missions will have the courage to live blessed lives despite their hardships. Send us Your Spirit so that we may find new ways to help them. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son.

All: Amen