



explore

Student

book
7

in the Explore Kid's
Discipleship Series

Unearth God's Image in You

Indianapolis, Indiana



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Unearth God's Image in You

Student Book 7 in the Explore Kid's Discipleship Series

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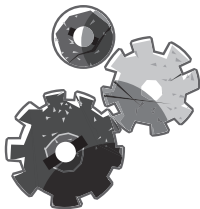


We Need God

God blesses those who realize they need Him by giving them the kingdom of heaven.

Engage

Everywhere we turn, we're told to believe in ourselves. We hear that the only way to succeed at a task is to look deep within ourselves for strength. If we rely on ourselves enough, then we can accomplish anything. Is this attitude of self-reliance in line with God's Word? Our passage describes a completely opposite attitude.



Check It Out
Read Matthew 5:3.

I can know it's true:

1. We are sinners, and we desperately need God. What does it mean if a person is poor and realizes his or her need for God? Do you think Jesus was talking about not having any money? No. Jesus was not talking about money at all; He was talking about being spiritually poor. When we are spiritually poor, we realize that we are sinners and in desperate need of a Savior. We understand that we are nothing, have nothing, and can do nothing without Jesus. We need Him to provide everything in our lives. Some great examples of people who were spiritually poor are found in **Exodus 4:1–12**; **Philippians 3:7**; and **Isaiah 6:5**.
2. When we realize we are poor, we begin to rely on God for everything. Our old self-reliant attitudes will be replaced with a confidence in God. How do we rely on God on a day-to-day basis? We stop worrying about our food and clothing and rely on God to provide for our needs. We now rely on His

power instead of our own strength to succeed at school, in sports, or in band. God wants us to rely on Him when we share our faith and help hurting friends. We can trust that He will give us the words to say to unbelievers. All of these changes only come when we totally rely on God. We can read more about relying on God in **Psalms 51:7**; **Philippians 1:20**; and **John 3:30**.

3. God blesses the poor with a kingdom! Jesus said in **John 14:6**, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." This verse tells us we cannot be with the Father in heaven unless we go through Jesus. Again, if we try to get into heaven using our own good works, we will fail. The Bible promises the reward of heaven to the poor—those who completely rely on Jesus for salvation. Read about the kingdom of heaven in **Matthew 13:44–45** and **18:3**.



Question

Read **Luke 18:9–14**.

Which man in this passage was poor and realized his need for God?

What did the tax collector do to show he was spiritually poor?

What kind of attitude did the Pharisee have?

Who should we be like?

Read **Revelation 3:17**.

How does God see those who think they don't need Him?

Read **Isaiah 64:6**.

How does this verse make you feel about your sins and the things you do?

What would it look like in your life to be spiritually poor?

What are some things in your life that you need to rely on God for?

Read **Luke 5:8** and **Judges 6:14–15**.

How do Peter and Gideon show they were poor in these passages?

Challenge



This week as you talk with God, have the same attitude as that of the tax collector. Instead of coming to God demanding that He gives you everything you want, tell God that you are a sinner and that you need Him. Ask God if there is an area in your life where you need to rely more on Him. Write your prayer in the space provided below.

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Matthew 5:3 says, “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.”

Read this passage at least once a day. Write it down and post it in a place where you will see it daily. This will help you begin to memorize the entire set of Jesus’ teachings called the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:3–12).

Mourning

God comforts those who are saddened by sin.

Engage

Some people laugh at sin. Others try to pretend it doesn't exist. Sometimes a tragic event happens that makes it impossible to ignore sin. What should be our attitude toward sin? Jesus said that sin should cause us to be sad, as if someone we love has passed away. And He said that those who mourn sin will be comforted by God.



Check It Out
Read Matthew 5:4.

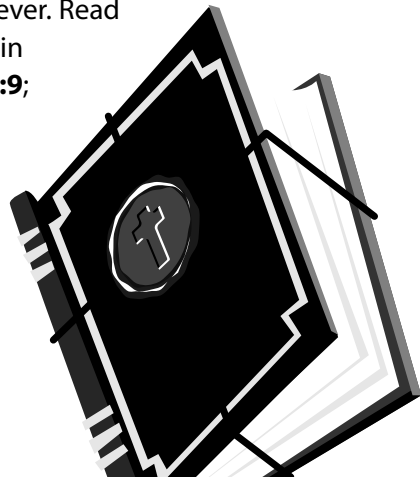
I can know it's true:

1. To mourn means to be saddened by sin. God created us to have a relationship with Him. When we commit a sin, our relationship with God is broken, and we can no longer have the fellowship He intended. God is deeply saddened by this separation. Just as God mourns over sin, we, too, should mourn. We can either mourn over our own personal sins or over the sins of those around us. We do not have to look far to see people who are hurting, broken, and in need of a Savior. Read about the effects sin has on our lives in **Isaiah 59:1–2** and **Jeremiah 5:25**. Read about Samuel mourning the sins of Saul in **1 Samuel 15:35**.

2. Mourning will lead us to seek forgiveness. We do not have to suffer and be sad forever! There is a solution; God is full of compassion and promises that He will forgive us when we ask Him to. God's

forgiveness will take away our sadness and restore our relationship with Him. Read about the kind of sorrow God desires from us in **2 Corinthians 7:10–11** and **Acts 2:36–38**.

3. God promises to comfort our sadness. We can find happiness in knowing that God takes our sadness and shame and replaces it with hope, joy, and love. And one day, God promises to take away all the pain in this world forever. Read about God's comfort in **Psalms 30:5; James 4:9; 1 John 1:9**; and **Revelation 21:3–5**.



Question

Both David and Peter provide examples of men whose sins caused them to mourn.

Read about David's mourning in **Psalms 51:3–4**. Read about Peter's mourning in **Matthew 26:75**.



Why was Jesus saddened over Jerusalem?

What are some bad things you see that causes you to be sad? What can you do about them?

How did David and Peter each show God their mourning?

Describe how you show God mourning in your life.

How can you comfort others when they are mourning?

Jesus mourned over the sins of Jerusalem. Read **Matthew 23:37–38**.

Second Thessalonians 2:16–17 says, “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a wonderful hope, comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say.”

Who gives us comfort?

Describe a time when you have felt God’s comfort.

Do you think God wants us to walk around being sad and crying all the time? See **Psalm 30:11–12** for a hint.

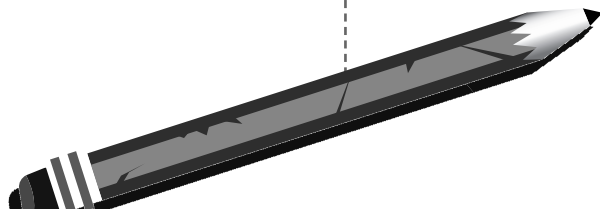
Challenge

This week make a list of the sins you see around you that make you sad. Beside each item you listed, write a way you can help bring comfort into that situation. Pray that God will give you the comfort to share with others around you.



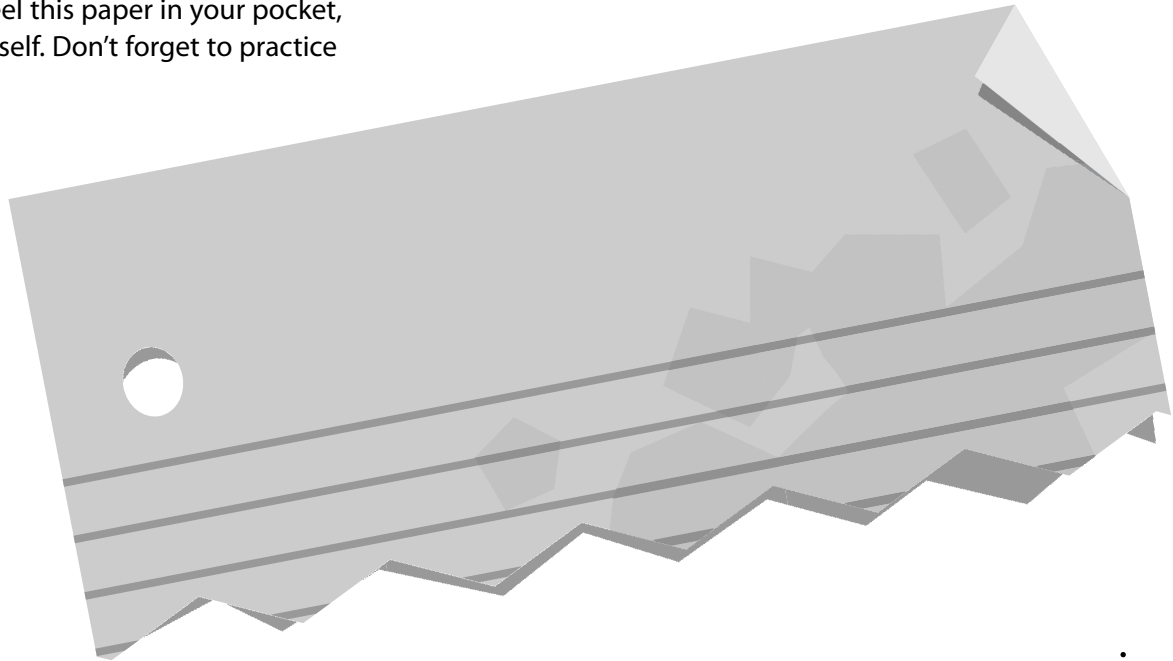
Sadness

Comfort



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Write on a piece of paper **Matthew 5:4**: “God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Fold up the paper and carry it in your pocket every day this week. Every time you feel this paper in your pocket, quote the verse to yourself. Don’t forget to practice **Matthew 5:3** as well.





Humble and Hungry

God blesses us when we are humble and desire justice.

Engage

It is easy to see that many things in the world are not the way they are supposed to be. Too many people put themselves first and don't worry about the consequences for others.

Sometimes we're like that too. But Jesus says that those who follow Him will put others first and be hungry to see things turn out the way that they are supposed to.



Check It Out

Read Matthew 5:5.

I can know it's true:

1. We are called to be humble. People have a natural desire to be first—first in line, first in sports, first in school. Although we do need to do our best, we do not *need* to be first. That is what being humble is about. Pure humility involves putting ourselves last and using our gifts and talents to serve other people. When we are humble, God promises to bless us. Jesus is the ultimate example of humility. He put His own needs last, served those around Him, and gave God glory for His accomplishments. Read about Jesus' sacrifice, being humble, and the rewards of humility in **Mark 9:31**; **John 13:1–17**; **Psalms 25:9**; and **37:11**.

2. God blesses those who want to do what is right. **Matthew 5:6** says, "God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied." We face temptation to do wrong every day. Whether the temptation is to cheat, lie, steal, or not stand up for someone being bullied, we have a decision to make.

Are we going to do what is wrong or what is right? God wants us to seek justice—to do the right thing. He compares our desire to do right with those who are desperately hungry and thirsty. If people are truly starving, they cannot think about anything except food. They will seek food and water with everything they have. In the same way, God wants us to seek what is right and good. We should be "starving" for what is right. Read more about seeking God and justice in **Matthew 6:33** and **Psalms 42:1**.

3. God will help us do what is right. His very nature is just and right; He can do nothing wrong. So when we are "starving" for justice, the only way to be satisfied is to seek the One who is purely just. God promises that when we come to Him, He will give us the power to overcome sin and do what is right. Read about God's power in **Hebrews 13:21**; **Philippians 4:13**; and **1 Timothy 1:12**.

Question

What does being humble look like in your life?



A lot of times, we see people who serve us as being weak and unable to be as “good” as we are. **Do you think you have to be weak or strong to be a servant? Why or why not?**

According to James 3:13, what comes from wisdom?

Read the following three passages: **Matthew 11:29**; **James 1:21**; and **Ephesians 4:2**.

What does each passage teach us about humility?

What does Deuteronomy 32:3–4 tell us about God’s character?

Why do you think Jesus compared our desire for justice with being hungry and thirsty?

How would your life be different if you desperately wanted to do what is right?

Challenge

The challenge this week is to experience hunger to remind yourself how much you should want God and what is right. Ask permission from your parents to skip a meal once this week. Journal about how you feel. Ask God to give you hunger for Him.



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Matthew 5:5–6 says, “God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth. God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.”

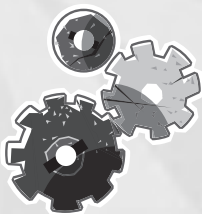
Using a piece of paper and markers, make a placemat at home with these verses written on it. Use this placemat every time you sit down to eat to help you memorize these next two verses. Don’t forget to also continue practicing **Matthew 5:3–4**.

Mercy

God will show mercy to those who are merciful to others.

Engage

Jesus tells us to help others. Are we just supposed to help our friends, or are we supposed to help other people too? Let's find out by looking at our next beatitude.



Check It Out

Read Matthew 5:7.

I can know it's true:

1. A merciful person helps others without expecting anything in return. Every day we see people who need some kind of help: a friend might need help with homework, a boy at lunch might need more food to eat, a complete stranger might need help carrying groceries. Whatever it is, God desires that we show mercy to those in need. How can we show mercy? Do what you can to help without expecting to receive anything in return. Jesus gave us a perfect example of a man who showed mercy on a complete stranger. Read **Luke 10:27–37**.
2. Jesus is our example on how to be merciful. As we look through the Bible, we see how Jesus showed mercy on both His friends and His enemies. He drove demons out of people. Jesus forgave a sinful woman and gave sight to a blind man, even though they had done nothing for Him. Jesus even had compassion on the men who were crucifying Him.

None of these people deserved Jesus' mercy, but He gave it freely. When we show mercy to others, we are following in Jesus' footsteps. Read about the mercy God desires in **Deuteronomy 15:7–8; James 2:14–17; and 1 John 3:17–18**.

3. We will receive the same type of mercy we show to others on judgment day—the day when God will judge all people. God blesses us by showing us mercy when we enter into eternity. Even though we have done nothing to deserve forgiveness, He still forgives us. However, God makes it clear that the way we treat other people will effect how God will judge us. When we show mercy to others, God promises to show mercy to us. Read about God's mercy in **Matthew 25:31–46; Hebrews 4:16; James 2:13; and 2 Corinthians 1:3–4**.



Question

What can you do to show mercy to others?

Read **Matthew 5:38–43**.

What does Jesus tell us to do to our enemies and those who hurt us?

What do you think is the hardest part of showing mercy to those who are mean to you?

Read **Matthew 23:23**.

Why was God upset with the teachers and Pharisees?

Daniel 9:9 says, “But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him.”

How does it make you feel knowing that God is merciful to you?

Does knowing God is merciful to you help you show mercy to others? Why or why not?

Challenge

The challenge this week is to help someone who does not deserve your help. This can be someone you have never met or someone who is not your friend. Ask God to give you an opportunity to show mercy and do not hesitate when that opportunity arrives. Write down what you did and how it made you feel.



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Matthew 5:7 says, "God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

Hang the memory verse chain you made in class somewhere in your room. Whenever you look at the chain, say the verse to yourself.

Practice saying all five of the Beatitudes you have learned so far together: **Matthew 5:3–7**.

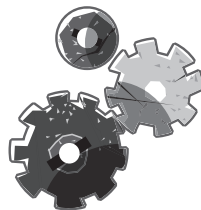


Pure Heart and Peace

**God blesses us when our hearts are pure
and we live in peace.**

Engage

Doing something half-hearted means that you don't give it your full effort. What usually happens when we do something half-heartedly? It won't be as good as it can be, and it might fail completely! Following Jesus is so important that you need to do it with your whole heart.



Check It Out

Read Matthew 5:8.

I can know it's true:

1. We must each strive to have a clean heart. God desires that we love Him with *all* of us—heart, mind, and soul! He wants 100 percent of your heart to be turned toward Him. So what happens when you turn just a portion of your heart to something else? When your heart is not turned 100 percent toward God, it is not pure as He desires. In order to be blessed by God, we all need to examine our hearts daily to see if there is anything pulling us away from Him. Read about keeping your heart fully devoted to God in **Psalm 86:11; James 1:8; Luke 16:13; and 1 John 2:15.**

2. We must strive to have clean actions. The Pharisees, the religious leaders in Jesus' day, were known for strictly following God's laws. The Pharisees thought they were doing "good" by not straying from the laws. Jesus saw their good works and called them hypocrites. Why would Jesus discourage the good works of these men? The answer is in one of our Beatitudes this week: The Pharisees' hearts were not

pure. Their hearts were focused on themselves and getting the praise of men instead of trying to honor God. God desires that we have clean actions based on pure hearts. Read the story of the Pharisees in **Matthew 23:25–28.**

3. We must strive to live in peace. Every day we encounter people who want or think different things than we do. For example, your brother may want to watch a different television show than you do. Your parents want you to clean your room instead of playing video games. A classmate might cut in front of you in line or cheat at a game during recess. It is human nature to fight and argue with others to win an argument. Is fighting with others in line with God's Word? God says we will be blessed if we put away our own pride and work for peace. Read more about working for peace in **Romans 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; and Ephesians 4:3.**



Question

What does 1 Samuel 16:7 tell us about how God sees us?

What are some things we can do to be pure in heart?

Read **Psalm 119:9**.

What are some examples of doing good works without having a pure heart?

Why do you think it is important to God that our hearts match our actions?

Read the following Scriptures on having a pure heart:
Ezekiel 36:26; Psalm 24:3–4; 51:2; and 2 Timothy 2:22.

Why is it important for us to have pure hearts?

What does James 3:18 say we will get if we plant peace?

Read **Romans 12:18**.

What situations do you face every day that you can bring peace to?

How would your life be different if you began to work for peace in everything you do?

Read **1 Samuel 25:1–35**. Abigail's story is a wonderful example of a woman doing all she can to live in peace with everyone. **What are some things Abigail did to bring peace to her situation?**

Challenge

This week the challenge is to focus on working for peace. At the end of each day, write about anytime you experienced anger or fighting. Brainstorm ways you could have brought peace to that situation. Ask God to help you become a planter of peace.



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Matthew 5:8–9 says, “God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.”

Read this passage every morning when you wake up. Once you have these two verses memorized, work on saying all the Beatitudes you have learned so far.

Persecution

Followers of Jesus are blessed when they are persecuted.

Engage

In many parts of the world, people who follow Jesus are in danger of being mistreated, injured, and even martyred (put to death for their beliefs). Jesus said that mistreatment is always a possibility for those who follow Him. But we don't have to be afraid; instead we can be joyful that we have the privilege to live for Jesus.



Check It Out
Read Matthew 5:10.

I can know it's true:

1. Persecution occurs when someone is hurt because of a specific belief. One form of persecution is physical pain. People have been beaten, tortured, and even killed for what they believed. They have also experienced emotional persecution. They have been mocked, made fun of, or lied about for trusting in Jesus. Read about the different types of persecution in **Psalm 35:11; 2 Corinthians 11:24–25; Matthew 26:59–60; Acts 6:13; and Jeremiah 20:2.**

2. We will be persecuted because we believe in Jesus. The Bible is full of people who were persecuted because of their faith in God. The Israelite nation was persecuted by evil kings. Prophets of God were persecuted by those worshiping idols. John the Baptist was arrested and beheaded. Jesus' disciples were beaten, stoned, arrested, and killed. Jesus himself was even persecuted and crucified. Just like those before us, we may be persecuted when we

decide to follow Jesus. Read about being persecuted as a follower of God in **2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:20; Jeremiah 20:10; Daniel 6:12–16; 1 Kings 19:1–3; and Nehemiah 4:1–4.**

3. We should be happy when we are persecuted. Read **Matthew 5:11–12.** Jesus told us to be happy about being persecuted. How can anyone be happy to endure pain? Our natural reaction might be to get angry and try to get even. God wants us to react the same way Jesus did. Jesus prayed for His persecutors and forgave them. When we follow in Jesus' footsteps, we will receive great rewards in heaven. That is something to be joyful about! Read about rejoicing during persecution in **1 Peter 3:14; 4:14–16; John 15:18–22; and Acts 5:41.**



Question

According to Romans 12:14, what are we suppose to do to those who persecute us?

What are some practical ways to bless someone who persecutes you?

What are some types of persecution you might face today as a follower of Christ?

How does it make you feel knowing that you will be persecuted if you follow Christ?

Have you already faced persecution because of your faith?

Read the following Scriptures, and record how each person was persecuted: **Genesis 4:3–8; Daniel 3; Acts 4:1–3; 7:54–59; John 19:1–3, 16–19.**

Challenge

There are many Christians who are being persecuted physically because of their beliefs. The challenge this week is to do research on Christians who are being persecuted around the world. A good place to look is www.christianfreedom.org and www.wesleyan.org/gp.

Write down anything you find interesting.



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Memorize **Matthew 5:10**, which says, “God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.”

Write down **Matthew 5:3–10**. Writing these verses out will help you memorize them. Read these verses every day this week. Be prepared to quote the entire passage next week.

Scripture Memory Certificate

During this class, I have memorized
the Beatitudes—Jesus' teachings on the kind
of life God blesses—in Matthew 5:3–10.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____





Congratulations
on taking steps toward
unearthing God's image in you.

explore

**Now it's time for
you to Explore how
to represent the
evidence for God!**