

#BLESSSED



WEEK 2

BIBLE STORY

A Time for Everything
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

I can turn to God when I'm sad.

SERIES VERSE

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

James 1:2-3 NIV

WEEKLY VERSE

God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5:4 NLT



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SKIT INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

The skits will require two people. One person will play him or herself (the straight character), and the other person will play the funny character. It works best if you can find a person willing to commit to being the character for the entire series.

CHARACTER BIO

The character's name is Ellie May. This skit is written with a female in mind, but feel free to use a male for this character if desired. Ellie May is a southern belle who is upbeat and keeps a positive attitude at all times. She is always getting herself into some kind of pickle, but always remembers how blessed she is. Ellie May should speak with a thick southern accent and uses the catch phrase "Bless my little heart!" She can be dressed in either overalls and a plaid shirt with no shoes or an old-fashioned dress with boots. Her hair should be in braids or wearing a wig with blonde hair in braids. Optional: add fake freckles to her face.

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SKIT

- Leader:** ***Walks out.*** How is everyone doing this morning? ***Allow kids to respond.*** I hope everyone had a blessed week last week.
- Ellie May:** ***Skips in humming or singing an old southern hymn or song.***
- Leader:** Ellie May! You're back! It's so good to see you!
- Ellie May:** It's mighty good to see ya'll's beautiful faces!
- Leader:** Now, you didn't go and get yourself into any "pickles" this past week, did you?
- Ellie May:** Well, I reckon if I did I didn't even notice. I am feelin' mighty down in the dumps today though. Somethin' just awful happened last week back home on the farm.
- Leader:** What happened?
- Ellie May:** My best friend since I was just a little whipper-snapper passed away last week.
- Leader:** I'm so sorry. What was their name?
- Ellie May:** Piggy Sue was her name.
- Leader:** Piggy Sue? Is that the name of a person or a pig?
- Ellie May:** Oh, I reckon I should have mentioned that Piggy Sue was also my pet pig.
- Leader:** Ok, that makes more sense then. Well, I'm still sorry about your friend/pig. I know it's hard to lose a good friend or pet.
- Ellie May:** It sure is, but I take comfort in knowing that I'm blessed and God's got this!

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Leader: You always know how to keep a positive attitude even when you are sad!

Ellie May: Just cuz' I'm sad and going through a rough patch in my life doesn't mean that I'm any less blessed and loved by God!

Leader: I love that!

Ellie May: Welp, that hen house ain't goin' to clean itself up! Billy May will have my head if it's not spic and span by noon! See ya'll next week!

Leader: Bye Ellie May! ***Walks off the stage confused.***

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GAME: STAND UP, SIT DOWN!

SUPPLIES

- No supplies are needed.

SETUP

- No setup is required.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Everyone can play.
2. Have all the kids begin either seated or standing.
3. The leader will say either "stand up if" or "sit down if" then give a statement that would apply to some of the kids, but not all of them.
4. Examples: "Stand up if you ate cereal for breakfast." "Stand up if pepperoni is your favorite pizza topping." "Sit down if you are in 3rd grade." "Sit down if your favorite color is pink." Etc.
5. There isn't a winner in this game. It is just for fun and to get to know each other better.
6. Optional: Allow other leaders and kids to lead the game to change it up.

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MESSAGE

SUPPLIES

- A Bible in your preferred version (This week uses NLT and NIV.)
- Blanket
- Ice cream (or other comfort food)
- Spoon

INTRODUCTION

I'm so excited to continue our #blessed series. Remember, being #blessed means that we have God's divine favor and protection over our lives. However, being #blessed doesn't mean everything in your life is awesome, it means we serve a God who is awesome all the time. That reminder is especially important as we look at today's Beatitude, or blessing, from Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount. Last week we learned that God blesses those who are poor in spirit and realize their need for Him in their lives. We are never more aware of our need for God in our lives than when something unexpected happens to us that causes us to be sad or upset.

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BIBLE STORY

Let's take a look at our second Beatitude, or blessing, found in Matthew 5:4. It says, "God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted." What does it mean to mourn? **Allow kids to respond.** To mourn means to feel regret or sadness about the loss or disappearance of something. That doesn't sound good or fun! Why would God say someone is blessed in that situation? Well, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 may be able to give us the answer. Turn with me to Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

Allow the kids time to turn to Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

Let's read this passage together and see what it has to say about this issue of mourning. "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

This passage is basically saying that there is a time for good things and a time for bad things to happen in this world. We would all much prefer everything to be great, happy, and wonderful all the time, but that's not possible. The reason we have all the bad things in the world that make us sad, like sickness, death, and war, is because of sin. When we become sad about the loss of something or someone, we begin to look for something that will comfort us and cheer us up.

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LIFE APPLICATION/OBJECT LESSON

When I'm sad and need something to comfort me and pick me up, I like to grab a super soft blanket and wrap myself up in it. ***Pull out blanket and wrap it around yourself.*** Next, I look for some good old fashioned comfort food. My favorite comfort food is ice cream! ***Insert another food if you like. Pull out the food and begin eating it.*** I will also call up a close friend who I can talk to, cry, and pray with about my situation. Maybe some of those things are things that comfort you too! Before I turn to any of those things, I should always turn to God first. He has given us the ultimate comforter, the Holy Spirit, to live inside of us and help us. He is so much better at comforting me than my blanky, ice cream, or even a good friend, because He is the best friend I could ever have. I can talk to Him any time of the day, as long as I want. The next time you are dealing with loss and find yourself mourning, remember to turn to God first. God wants us to cast our cares on Him because He cares for us. Let's pray and ask God to be our comforter today.

Optional: Offer a prayer of salvation for any kids who have not accepted Jesus into their lives.

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REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who did Jesus say would be blessed in His second Beatitude?

Answer: Those who mourn.

2. What does it mean to be blessed?

Answer: You have God's divine favor and protection over your life.

3. Is there a time for good and bad things?

Answer: Yes.

4. Where is our series verse found in the Bible?

Answer: James 1:2-3

5. What is Today's Takeaway?

Answer: I can turn to God when I'm sad.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that makes you sad?
2. Have you ever lost an important person or pet in your life?
How did that make you feel?
3. What is something you turn to for comfort when you are going through a time of mourning?
4. Do you turn to God for help and comfort first or try to handle things on your own?
5. Have kids look up these verses and discuss them as a group.
Psalm 46:1, Matthew 11:28, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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GROUP GAME: BLESSINGS CHARADES

SUPPLIES

- Small pieces of paper
- Marker
- Small container or bucket

SETUP

- Write different blessings on the small pieces of paper, fold them, and put them in the small container/bucket.
- Blessings options: family, friends, house, clothes, pets, toys, food, water, sports, music, etc.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Have the group sit or stand in a circle on the floor.
2. The leader will choose one kid at a time to act out the blessing for the group to guess. They cannot use any words, only their actions.
3. Keep choosing new kids until you run out of blessings to act out.