

BEATITUDE 8: FOLLOWING GOD (EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD)

November 23, 2024

Bible Readings

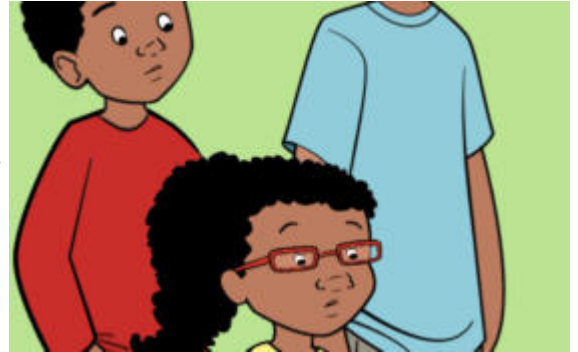
Take a few minutes to read the Bible verses listed and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in how this verse applies to you this week.

Matthew 5:1-12

Memory Verse

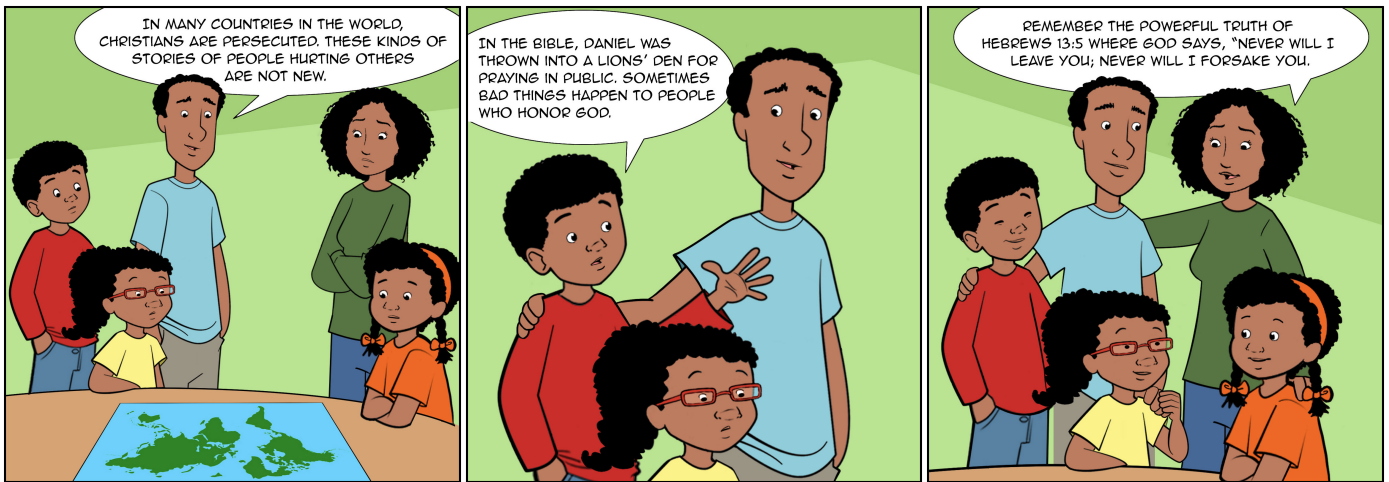
¹⁰ God blesses those people who are treated badly for doing right. They belong to the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:10



CASEY'S DAY

written by Ron VandenBurg
illustrated by Chad Thompson



Did you know following Jesus isn't always easy? In Matthew 5:10, Jesus explained that his friends would be *persecuted* or punished for following him. But they could stay strong because God would give them strength.

Jesus experienced pain, happiness, tears, and laughter like we do; he understands everything we experience. Throughout his time on earth, Jesus was criticized and made fun of by people, including religious leaders. They called him a fake and refused to accept that he was God's Son. They persecuted him all the way to the cross, where he died and paid the price for the sins of *everyone*, even those who hurt him. But before the soldiers crucified Jesus, he made a promise to his disciples, and it's true for anyone who follows him. He promised us a helper: the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives in our hearts and helps us follow God, even when it's hard.

Being a Christian isn't easy. People will make fun of us, be mean, or even hurt us, and there are many countries in the world where being a Christian is life-threatening. Jesus told us we would face problems

because of our faith, but we can stay joyful because Jesus is king over everything. We can pray and ask God to give us the strength to remain faithful to him. God will help us handle whatever challenges we face because he loves us. Remember Jesus' example: to follow God and show God's love to everyone no matter what. And remember that you're not alone; Jesus gave you the Holy Spirit to help you.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you that Jesus paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross. Please give us courage when people mistreat us because we follow you. We pray for our Christian sisters and brothers who face persecution in many countries. Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit in our hearts to help us and for loving us so much. Amen.

written by Areo Keller-Donahue

<https://kidscorner.net/devotions/beatitude-8>

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