



**Close Encounters  
with the  
BEATITUDES  
Leader's Guide**  
by  
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**This video offers an opportunity to the intermediate and junior high student to reflect on practical ways to live out the Beatitudes. After showing the film, discuss the following questions as a way of integrating the examples into the real life experiences of your students.**

**Jimmy didn't think he could do what his teacher asked because he thought Jesus' words in the Beatitudes were too hard to understand. How did the angel help Jimmy do his homework assignment?**

**Being "poor in spirit" means sharing what we have with others because that is doing God's Will. How did Emily share with her brother? What can you share? What is easy for you to share? What is very difficult for you to share?**

**Comforting those who mourn means helping someone feel better about themselves after they have lost something or someone. How did Ricky comfort his grandma? Why was Ricky's grandmother mourning? Who do you know who is feeling sad about a loss in their life? How can you help them feel better?**



Being “gentle” or “meek” means that you try to find ways besides fighting and arguing to solve your problems. Joe used his sense of humor to solve the problem in the cafeteria. What things make you so angry that you want to fight or argue? What would be a “gentle” way to solve this problem?

Working for “justice” means finding ways to make things fair for everyone. How did Julie make things fair for Maria? What is something you see around you that is unfair for someone else? How can you help make it more fair for that person?

Being “merciful” means looking for ways to show kindness to others. How did Charlie show mercy to John? What are some ways that you can show mercy to the people in your family? What are some ways that you can show mercy to the other children in your classroom?

Being “pure of heart” means doing what’s right just because it is right. It means wanting to make the world around us into God’s Kingdom. How did Jimmy want to be “pure of heart”? What is a way that you can be “pure of heart” at home? How can you be “pure of heart” at school? [Teacher Note: Try to get the students’ examples to reach farther than recycling and collecting litter.]

Being a “peacemaker” means controlling your behavior so people can see Jesus in you. How did Ann deal with her anger? What behavior is difficult for you to control?

How can you be more like Jesus at those times?

Being “persecuted for the sake of justice” means being willing to stand up for what you know are God’s laws. How was Heather persecuted for the sake of justice? Which of God’s laws was she standing up for? Which of God’s laws are you willing to stand up for?

#### **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY:**

Invite the students to make an eight page journal with a personally-designed cover. Over a period of a week, ask each child to find one way to practice all of the Beatitudes. Have them record the Beatitude, its definition, and their example on each page.

#### **OTHER RESOURCES**

Videos From VIDEOS WITH VALUES: “The Mass For Young Children”; “Beginners Bible”; “Gospel With a Smile”; “Stations of the Cross for Children” “Jesus Grows Up”  
**1(800) 233-4629**