

Epiphany IV, Year A

What's Happening in Sunday School?

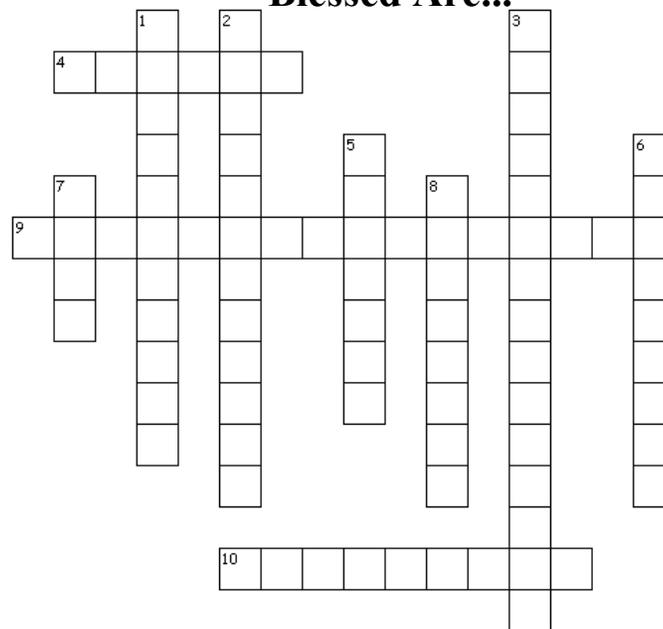
The Gospel reading is the familiar Beatitudes. The course of these blessed states represents a process that each believer goes through, not just a list of desirable Christian qualities. It starts with those that are poor in spirit. We all start out poor in spirit – knowing we are missing something, but unsure where to find it or how to get it. It is our “God-shaped vacuum” described by Blaise Pascal (“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.”) We are seeking (sometimes without knowing it) our creator and know we are incomplete. We turn to God. As we come to know him, we mourn our past life and all its mistakes made in the absence of the love of the Savior. We mourn the fact that we are so low in our spiritual climb. We come to God meek, knowing that we are nothing without God and so far from what He wants us to be. As we grow in faith, we hunger for His Word. We desire to become as God would have us be. We take on the traits of righteousness and begin to show mercy, purity of heart, and a desire to sow peace. As we become fully functioning Christians we will find ourselves persecuted and treated cruelly because of our faith. You know you’re doing it right if the world hates you!

Digging Deeper

- How many virtues are mentioned in the Beatitudes?
- What does the word Beatitude mean?
- What is the title of the “speech” in which Jesus teaches the Beatitudes?

Fun Page

Blessed Are...



Across

4. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall _____ (2 words).
 9. The Beatitudes are described in what famous speech? (4 words)
 10. Blessed are they who mourn for they shall be _____.

Down

1. Blessed are the _____, for they shall be called children of God.
 2. Blessed are the _____ (3 words), for theirs will be the kingdom of heaven.
 3. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the _____ (3 words).
 5. In which Bible book are the Beatitudes found?
 6. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be _____.
 7. Blessed are the _____ for they shall inherit the earth.
 8. Blessed are the _____, for they shall obtain mercy.