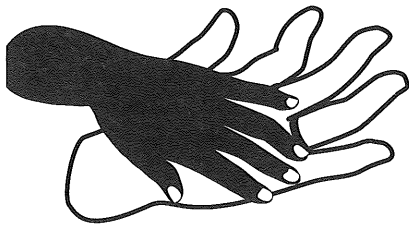


JULY 4  
2010



# PARENT CONNECTIONS

*for families of Preteens.*

## TODAY YOUR PRETEEN LEARNED

### PATHWAYS TO JOY

#### Pathways of Humility and Gentleness

Today's lesson was the first of five lessons on the Beatitudes. Your preteen discovered the meaning of the word "beatitude," which is *blessed*. Preteens also learned that *blessed* means more than "happy." Blessedness is the sense of well-being and spiritual joy that comes from being approved by God. A Christian can experience this blessedness in spite of outward circumstances.

As preteens studied the first and third beatitudes in Matthew 5, they discovered that God's values are opposite the values of most people. People often look for joy in money, possessions, unique experiences, and power. God says that joy comes to those who are humble and who are gentle with others.

This week read the Beatitudes with



your preteen from a couple of different Bible translations. Notice how the wording in the various translations helps you understand the meaning of the Beatitudes. Compare the values of the Beatitudes with typical values in our society. Talk with your preteen about how your family can more faithfully live by God's values.

## PARENT POINTERS



**Your preteen is unique.** He or she has a personality and specially given abilities that no one else on earth has. One of the most important things parents can do for their preteens is *believe in them.*

Whether they have ambitions of being a doctor or a writer, a mechanic or computer expert, encourage them. Their ideas and dreams may even change daily. No matter how ambitious you think the idea is, believe in them and TELL them that you think they are capable of anything and everything.

Be careful about pressuring them to achieve high goals that they have not set for themselves. Let them set the goals; your job is to encourage.

Our world is not an easy place to have confidence. You are the most important person in your child's world (even if he or she doesn't act like it sometimes). You have the power to send him or her into the world confident in himself or herself and in your child's relationship with God. God has given you the special privilege of empowering an individual that might just change the world.

Daily, give your preteen sincere encouragement.

—by Katherine Hendrixson

*The absence of parental love at any one time spells uncertainty to the child. . . . It is precisely when the child is disobedient, does not conform, that he needs the parent's love. Love cannot be intermittent without disastrous effects.*

—Hazen G. Werner

(*The Bible and the Family* [Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1966], 87.)



There is no better way to teach your preteen to serve others than by example. Make it a point to do family service projects often. You might try doing something specific once a month. Make compassionate service a part of your family's life.

Mow your neighbor's lawn. Baby-sit or take a friend's or neighbor's children out for

the day to give them a break. Make dinner for your pastor and his or her family, and take it to their home. Allow your preteen to be involved not only in *doing* the act of service but in *planning* it as well. Let your attitude be one of joy while you serve, and your preteen will learn to enjoy showing kindness to others.