



CENTENARY
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HIGH SCHOOL

CHRIST

OTHERS

SECOND



FIRST

Memory Verse for the High School: Matthew 5:1–12

Week 1: What is I AM 3RD?

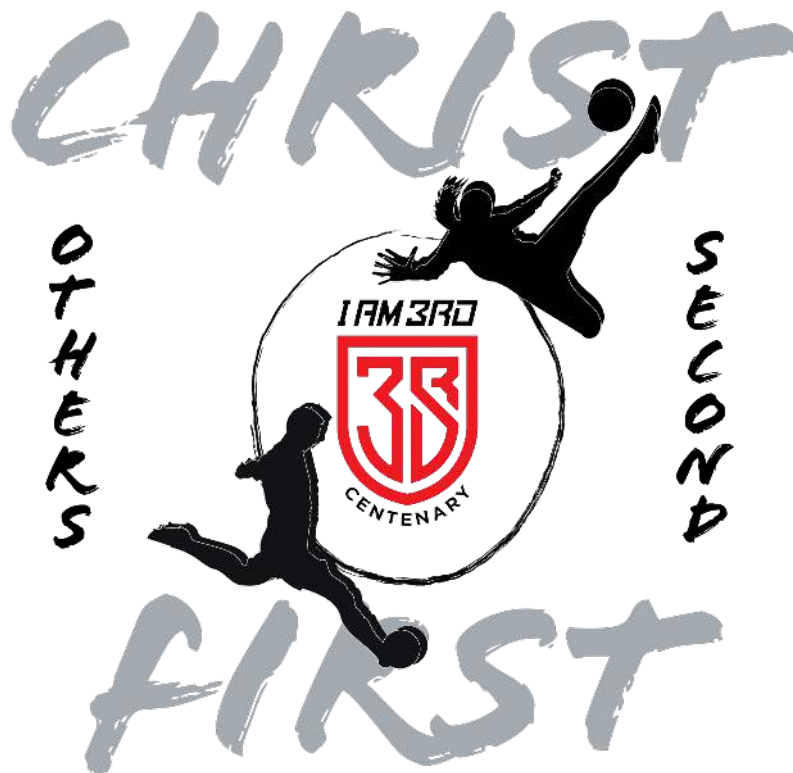
I AM 3RD is based on a simple belief that Jesus Christ is first, others are second, and I am third.

We strongly believe that Jesus Christ is the most important person in our lives. (Matthew 25:40)

Doing our best in everything: We want to work at everything with all our hearts, as if we are working for the Lord. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Studying Scripture: We believe all Scripture is God-breathed (from God) and is useful for teaching, correcting, and training in goodness, so that through studying Scripture we may be equipped (ready) for every good work.

It is our prayer that we would gain a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Christ through our weekly devotions and times of prayer, in order to help us learn more about Jesus Christ and His importance in our lives. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



Week 2: “When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying...”

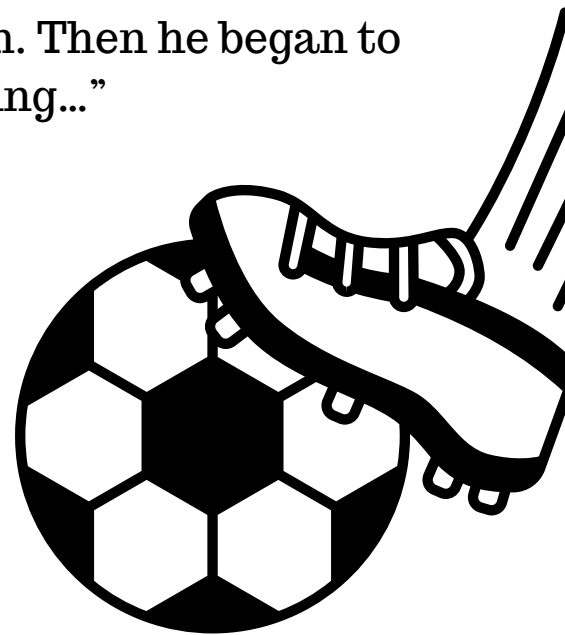
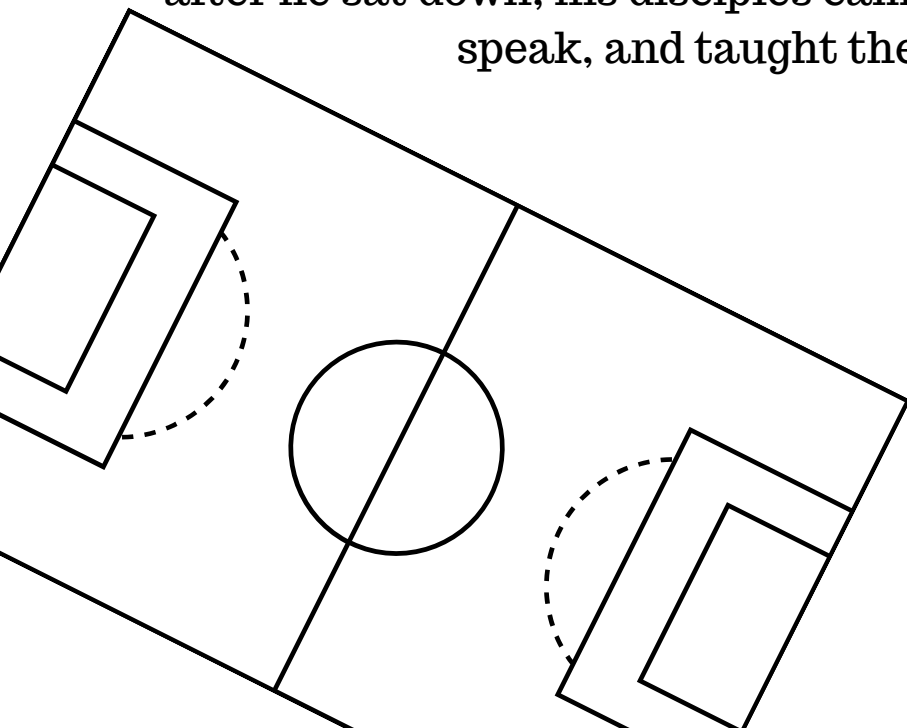
This soccer season we will be memorizing the first part of Jesus’s Sermon on the Mount, commonly known as the Beatitudes. In these eight blessings, Jesus announces the characteristics that are honored in God’s kingdom. As we memorize these blessings, we will see that what is blessed in God’s kingdom is not what advances us in the world. Jesus blesses those whom no one else blessed. This is what some call the "upside-down" nature of God’s kingdom. These are important blessings for us to memorize because of how counterintuitive they are in our culture. To some of us these traits come naturally, but for many of us, these traits can be hard to emulate. We hope that memorizing these blessings will help you follow Jesus in your daily life.

Questions:

What does the upside-down nature of God's kingdom mean to you?

Memory Verse:

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying...”





Week 3: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

In God’s kingdom, the poor in spirit and those who mourn are blessed.

What does it mean to be poor in spirit? It is a sense of spiritual humility where we recognize our need for God. Jesus’s use of the word "poor" brings to mind those who lack money, and that may be intentional. When you have enough money to provide for your needs you can lose sight of your need for God. The poor do not have this problem. They recognize their need for God to provide for them. Jesus also mentions those who mourn. How can it be a blessing to mourn? Jesus says that those who need comfort will be comforted. He does not call everyone to be happy all the time. Rather, He recognizes life can be hard and acknowledges the human need to be comforted. Jesus is not saying that it is a good thing for us to experience loss. He is reminding us that we are blessed to follow a God who sees us in our vulnerable state and comes to our aid.

Questions:

What are some ways that you can be poor in spirit? Has God ever helped you through a difficult time?

Memory Verse:

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”



Week 4: “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

The concept of inheriting the earth brings to mind the global conquest of figures close to Jesus’s time such as Alexander the Great or Julius Caesar. Throughout human history, strong figures have attempted to conquer the world. Unlike these empires who conquered by force, in the upside-down Kingdom of God, it is the meek who inherit the earth. Meekness is the virtue of being humble, gentle, and not aggressive. God blesses those who do not clamber for earthly power or position, but gently await the day that they will be co-rulers with Christ in God’s kingdom.

Questions:

How does knowing that God honors the meek change the way we behave?

What would meekness look like in your life?

Memory Verse:

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

Week 5: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness? Sometimes, the world does seem fair. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are those who long to see the world made right. They need to see God’s Kingdom established and God’s ways rule on earth in the same way they need food and water. Over the past few weeks, we have mentioned the idea of God’s Kingdom being "upside-down" because it is so contrary to the ways of the world. This rings true for many of us, but those who long for righteousness see the world as upside down and cannot wait to see God set things right. Jesus assures them that though things are not right, there will be a day when God’s rule will make things right. This does not mean that we have to wait to help make the world a better place. Rather, it gives us hope knowing that our work is never in vain as we are participating in mission with God.

Questions:

How can you hunger and thirst for righteousness?

Memory Verse:

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.”





Week 6:

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

The merciful have compassion on others and are willing to extend forgiveness when they are wronged. Forgiveness is one of the hardest essentials of the Christian life. It can be extremely difficult to extend mercy and forgiveness to someone who has hurt you. But that is what mercy looks like. Mercy is extending compassion to someone who does not deserve it. God blesses this trait in us because we are paying forward the mercy that God has shown us as sinners. The pure in heart have a single-minded devotion to God. They do not lose heart or become jaded by the world. They maintain their hope and their hope will be fulfilled.

Questions:

How can you show mercy to someone? Do you know anyone you would describe as pure of heart? What does that look like?

Memory Verse:

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

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Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”



Week 7: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Peacemakers are blessed. We may think of a peaceful person as someone who avoids conflict, maybe even someone who is weak. Jesus is not blessing those who avoid conflict, He is blessing those who make peace where there is chaos. It takes courage and sincerity, and often times it is painful to work to bring peace to situations that are tumultuous. Our best example of a peacemaker is Jesus. He did not deny the presence of evil in the world, He faced it head-on. Through the teaching we have studied this soccer season, we can see how Jesus challenged the status quo and promoted peace. He also healed the sick, casted out demons, and dealt the killing blow to sin and death through His resurrection. When we make peace in our relationships and in our world, we will be called God’s children.

Questions:

Is there a relationship in which you need to make peace? How can you be a part of bringing peace to your community?

Memory Verse:

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

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Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.’”

Week 8: “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

In the upside-down nature of God’s Kingdom, those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake are blessed. No one wants to experience persecution, and nor should we. Persecution is not something we should seek in order to be blessed. Rather, because the ways of living in God’s Kingdom are contrary to the ways of the world, persecution can be a natural byproduct of living like Jesus. This is what it means to be persecuted for the sake of righteousness. God blesses us when we stand up for what is right even when it costs us.

How do we know what is right? By studying God’s Word and understanding God’s character. What is right will look like the Beatitudes, humility, meekness, and making peace in the world.



Questions:

What do you think it means for the persecuted to inherit the kingdom of heaven?

Memory Verse:

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

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Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

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Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’”

Week 9:

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Last week we talked about how God blesses those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness. As we conclude our study of the Beatitudes, Jesus distinguishes between that persecution and the persecution that may occur for the sake of His name. There is a difference then between the persecution we may face for doing the right thing, and the persecution we may face for proclaiming Jesus is Lord. When people are persecuted for their belief in Jesus, they enter into a long history of people who have been persecuted for their beliefs that traces back to the prophets. Again, persecution is not something we may ever face, nor should we seek it out. If we find ourselves facing persecution for our belief in Jesus, we can find hope in the knowledge that we are not alone, and we will be greatly rewarded in heaven.

Questions: Have you ever felt challenged for your faith in Jesus?



Memory Verse: “When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”



Great work! You have memorized the whole passage for this soccer season!

Week 10:

This soccer season we memorized the Beatitudes. These blessings can be difficult to hear because of how contrary they are to the world. We hope that by memorizing these blessings you will take them with you into the world, not to follow them for the sake of being blessed, but in order to be a blessing. The world needs more humble, merciful, peacemaking followers of Jesus. You are the next generation who give us hope for the future as you follow Jesus. May the Lord bless you as you are a blessing to this world.

Questions:

What will you take away from the devotional time this season? What are some memories you made this soccer season?





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