

# 11

## Jesus Teaches About True Happiness

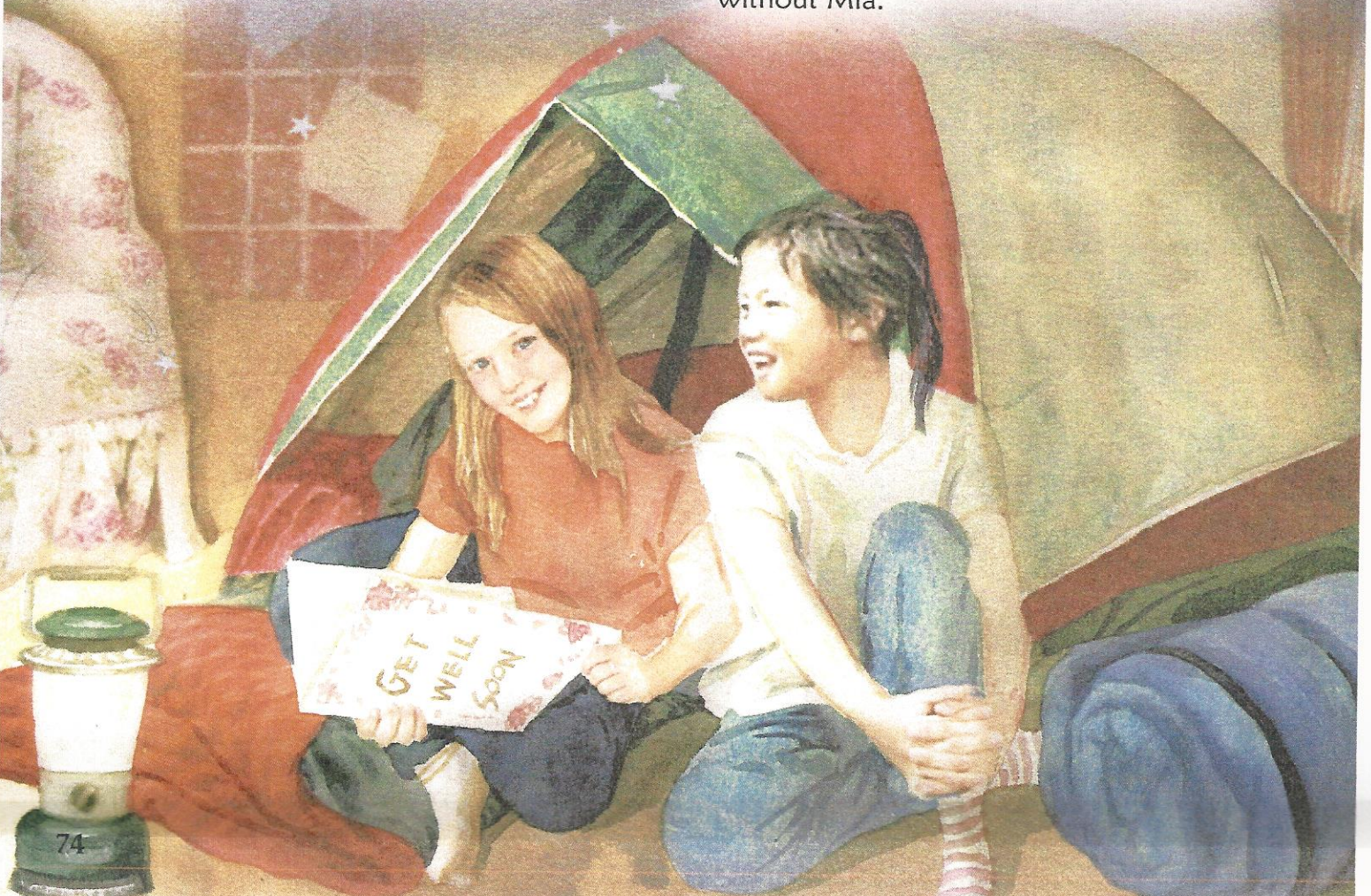
### Camping Out★

“Tomorrow’s the big day!” Caroline said to her friend Mia when they were having lunch on Friday.

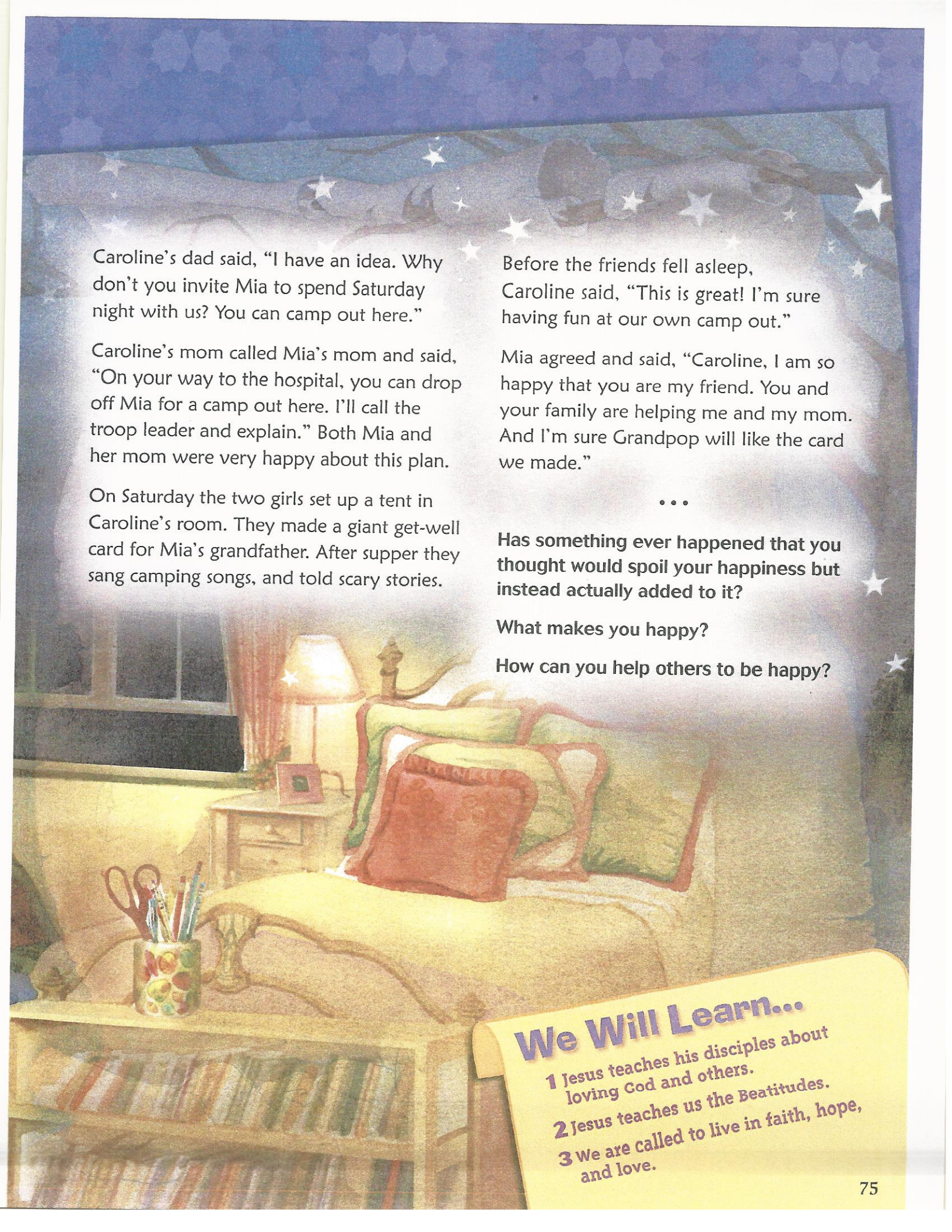
“Yes! My sleeping bag is packed, and I’m ready to go,” replied Mia. The two friends were going with the Junior Wilderness Club on their first overnight camping trip. They had been looking forward to it for months.

Later that evening the phone rang at Caroline’s apartment. It was Mia. “I can’t go camping tomorrow,” she whispered. Mia explained that her grandfather had gone into the hospital. Mia said, “Mom is needed at the hospital. She would feel better if I were not so far away. I’m worried about Grandpop, and I don’t think I would enjoy the trip. I’ll talk to you on Monday. Have a good time.”

Caroline told her parents what had happened. Caroline said, “I don’t want to go camping now. I won’t have any fun without Mia.”







Caroline's dad said, "I have an idea. Why don't you invite Mia to spend Saturday night with us? You can camp out here."

Caroline's mom called Mia's mom and said, "On your way to the hospital, you can drop off Mia for a camp out here. I'll call the troop leader and explain." Both Mia and her mom were very happy about this plan.

On Saturday the two girls set up a tent in Caroline's room. They made a giant get-well card for Mia's grandfather. After supper they sang camping songs, and told scary stories.

Before the friends fell asleep, Caroline said, "This is great! I'm sure having fun at our own camp out."

Mia agreed and said, "Caroline, I am so happy that you are my friend. You and your family are helping me and my mom. And I'm sure Grandpop will like the card we made."

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**Has something ever happened that you thought would spoil your happiness but instead actually added to it?**

**What makes you happy?**

**How can you help others to be happy?**

## **We Will Learn...**

- 1** Jesus teaches his disciples about loving God and others.
- 2** Jesus teaches us the Beatitudes.
- 3** We are called to live in faith, hope, and love.

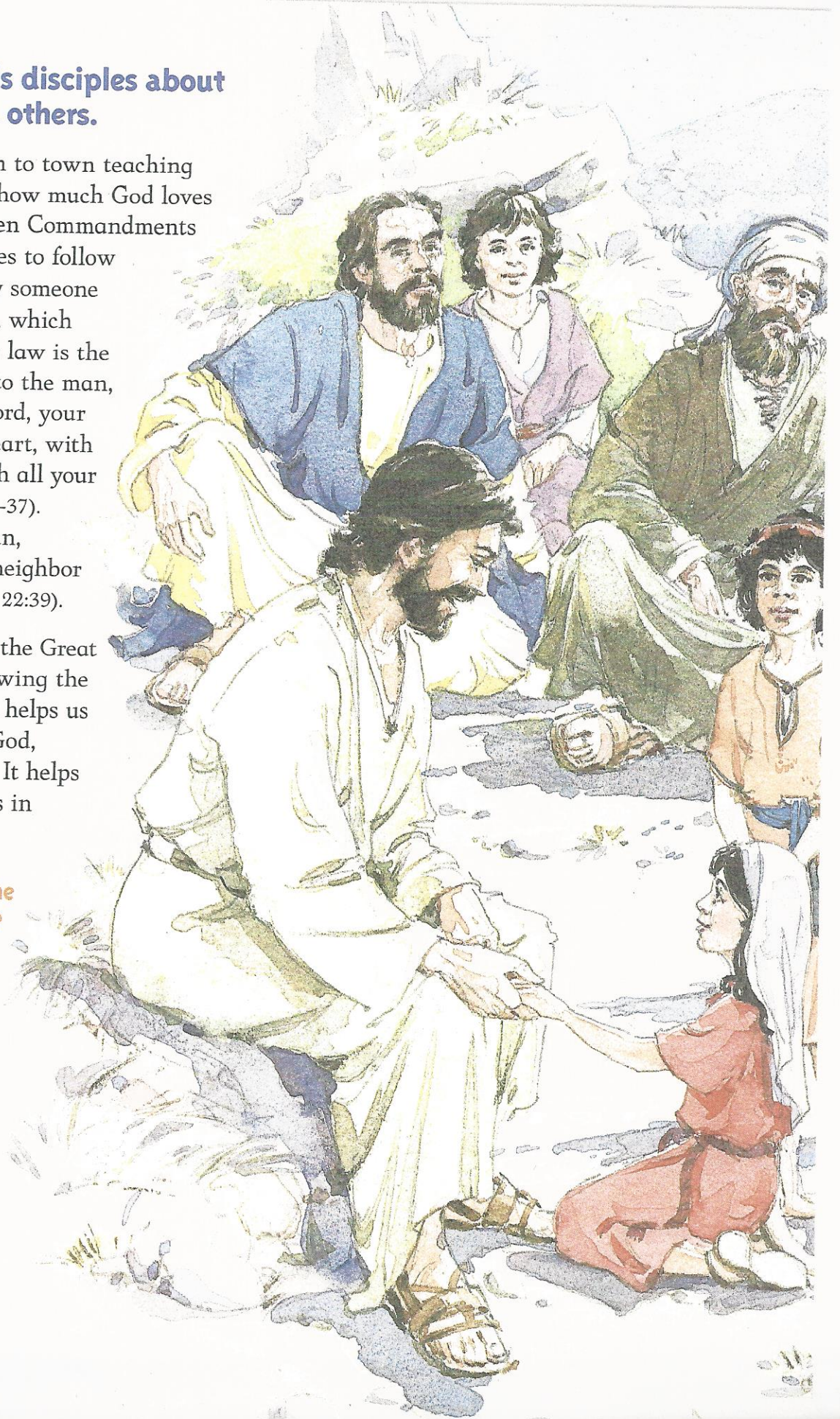


## 1 Jesus teaches his disciples about loving God and others.

Jesus went from town to town teaching and showing people how much God loves us. He lived by the Ten Commandments and urged his disciples to follow his example. One day someone asked Jesus, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" Jesus said to the man, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:36-37). Jesus also told the man, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

We call Jesus' answer the Great Commandment. Following the Great Commandment helps us to show our love for God, ourselves, and others. It helps us find true happiness in the Kingdom of God.

**How will you follow the Great Commandment?**





## 2 Jesus teaches us the Beatitudes.

One day many people were gathered to listen to Jesus teach. He taught them the Beatitudes. The **Beatitudes** are Jesus' teachings that describe the way to live as his disciples. When we live as Jesus' disciples, we can find true happiness. In the Beatitudes the word *blessed* means "happy." This is a good clue to what the Beatitudes are all about.



Jesus taught us the Beatitudes as guidelines for being truly happy, and reaching our final goal: life in God's Kingdom forever as his sons and daughters. Look at the chart on this page. It names each Beatitude and states how observing each one helps us to spread the Kingdom of God.

**How can we thank Jesus for teaching us ways to find true happiness?**

The Beatitudes	What the Beatitudes Mean for Us
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."	We are "poor in spirit" when we depend on God for everything. No person or thing is more important to us than God. We remember that God created us, and our goal in life is to be happy with him forever in Heaven.
"Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted."	We "mourn" when we are sad because of the sin, evil, and suffering in the world. We trust that God will comfort us.
"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land."	We are "meek" when we show respect, gentleness, and patience to all people, even those who do not respect us.
"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied."	We "hunger and thirst for righteousness" when we are fair and just toward others.
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."	We are "merciful" when we are willing to forgive others, and do not take revenge on those who hurt us.
"Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God."	We are "clean of heart" when we are faithful to God's teachings, and try to see God in all people and in all situations.
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."	We are "peacemakers" when we treat others with love and respect, and when we help others to stop fighting and make peace.
"Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."	We are "persecuted for the sake of righteousness" when we are ignored or insulted for following Jesus' example.

Matthew 5:3-10



### 3 We are called to live in faith, hope, and love.

A **virtue** is a good habit that helps us to act according to God's love for us. Virtues help guide our conduct with the help of God's grace. The virtues of faith, hope, and charity are *theological virtues*. They are gifts given to us directly by God.

- **Faith** is the virtue that enables us to believe in God and all that the Church teaches us. We live as people of *faith* by believing in all that God has told us about himself and all that he has done. Faith is necessary in order to be saved. We profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed and by living according to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Church. The Holy Spirit helps us to have faith in God and to strive for our greatest goal, life forever with God in Heaven.

- **Hope** is the virtue that enables us to trust in God's promise to share his life with us forever. We live as people of *hope* by trusting in Jesus and his promises of the Kingdom of God and of eternal life.
- **Charity**, or love, is the greatest of all virtues. It enables us to love God and to love our neighbor. We live as people of *charity*, or love, by loving God above all things and our neighbors as ourselves.

When we live with faith, hope, and charity, we gradually come to understand and live the happiness that Jesus was teaching in the Beatitudes.

Name one way you can be a person of faith, a person of hope, and a person of charity.

## Do You Know?

**B**y our Baptism we are all called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ by what we say and do. This is known as *evangelization*. Evangelization takes place in our everyday lives. Through our words and actions we evangelize those who have not heard the message of Jesus Christ. We can also evangelize those who have heard the message but need encouragement to live out the gift of faith that is theirs.





## Review

Fill in the blanks.

1. In the Beatitudes the word \_\_\_\_\_ means "happy."
2. The Beatitudes are teachings of Jesus that describe the way to live as his \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a good habit that helps us to act according to God's love for us.
4. Following the Great Commandment helps us to show our love for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Discuss the following.

5. Choose one of the Beatitudes and explain what it means.
6. How do the virtues of faith, hope, and charity help us to live as disciples of Jesus?

## Faith Words

**Beatitudes** (page 77)

**virtue** (page 78)

**faith** (page 78)

**hope** (page 78)

**charity** (page 78)

## With My Family

### Sharing Our Faith

- 1 Jesus teaches his disciples about loving God and others.
- 2 Jesus teaches us the Beatitudes.
- 3 We are called to live in faith, hope, and love.

### PRAYING TOGETHER



The following is a traditional prayer of the Church. Read and reflect on the meaning of the words. Pray these words every day this week.

#### An Act of Love

O Lord God, I love you above all things and I love my neighbor for your sake because you are the highest, infinite and perfect good, worthy of all my love. In this love I intend to live and die. Amen.

### Living Our Faith

As a family, identify people you know or have read about who live or lived according to the Beatitudes. Then ask each family member to decide what he or she can do to be more of a "Beatitude person" today. Write some ways here.

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