

**MIAMI UNION
ADVENTIST ACADEMY**

FIVE-DAY MORNING WORSHIP BOOKLET

Living the Beatitudes

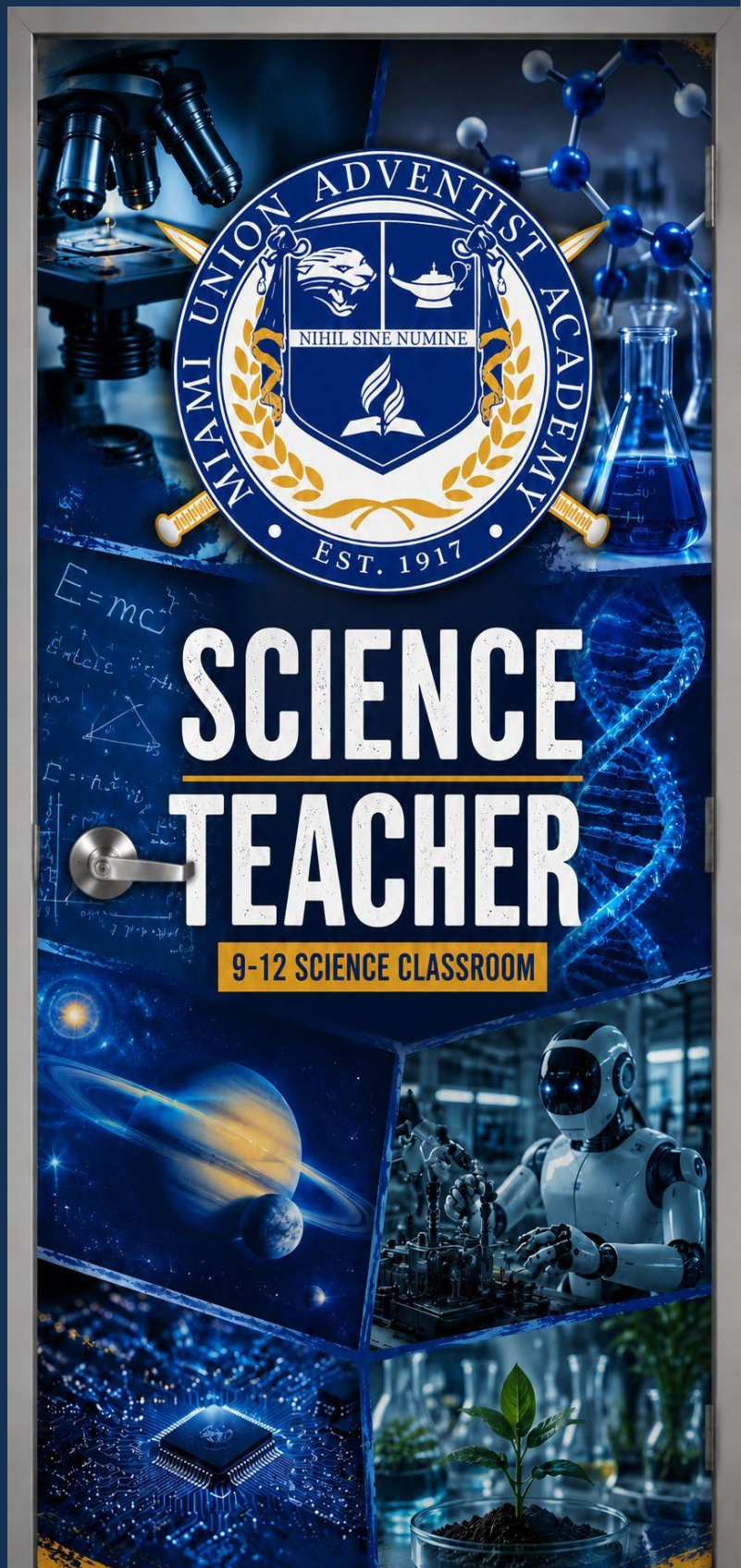
Matthew 5:3-7 King James Version

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Prepared for the Teachers and Staff of
MUAA

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Teach • Serve • Inspire Reflect Christ



A September Beatitudes Challenge for Teachers

September is a natural time for new beginnings. As you welcome students to Week five (5), reestablish weekly routines, and consider making the Beatitudes part of your daily practice.

Each day, choose one teaching and ask God to help you live it in your classroom, meetings, conversations, and home. Let the Beatitudes shape not only what you teach, but also how you teach and how you treat the people entrusted in your care.

Throughout the month, challenge yourself to:

1. Practice humility instead of pride.
2. Offer comfort to students, families, and colleagues who are hurting.
3. Respond with gentleness and self-control when situations become tense.
4. Choose righteousness and integrity, even when doing so is difficult.
5. Extend mercy and forgiveness while maintaining appropriate accountability.
6. Maintain a pure heart by examining your motives and seeking God's guidance.
7. Become a peacemaker in your classroom, staffroom, and community.
8. Remain faithful when doing what is right brings criticism or inconvenience.

As a Christian teacher, you are called to do more than teach academic subjects. Your students are also watching how you respond to pressure, how you handle mistakes, how you speak to others, and how you treat those who struggle.

The Beatitudes invite you to make your classroom a place where humility, compassion, integrity, mercy, peace, and faithfulness can be seen in action. They can guide your attitudes, strengthen your relationships, and help create a school environment where students, teachers, and families experience the love of God.

This September, do not simply read the Beatitudes. Let them continue to mold you, as a teacher, and the person that God called you to be; blessed.

Blessed in Service

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

Matthew 5:3 (KJV)

Morning Thought "Work becomes worship when it is offered to God with humility, excellence, and love."

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

In the first Beatitude, Jesus teaches us that entering the Kingdom of God begins with humility. Being "poor in spirit" means recognizing that we cannot live a righteous life through our own strength. We need God's grace, wisdom, forgiveness, and direction every day.

A person who is poor in spirit understands that accomplishments, education, titles, and possessions do not make anyone more deserving of God's love. Everything we have and everything we are comes from Him. Before God can fill us with His Spirit, we must be willing to empty ourselves of pride, selfishness, and the belief that we can manage life without Him.

This Beatitude challenges us to remain humble. As teachers, we may have knowledge and experience, but we must still be willing to learn, listen, pray, and depend on God. When we admit our need for Him, He gives us access to the spiritual riches of His Kingdom.

As educators, our work is more than completing lessons and managing responsibilities. It is a ministry. Every encouraging word, patient correction, carefully prepared activity, and quiet prayer can lead a student closer to Christ. Today, let us serve without pride, value every kind of honest labor, and remember that God works through willing hands and humble hearts.

SCIENCE CONNECTION In Physics, work transfers energy and produces change. In Christian education, faithful service also creates change by transferring encouragement, knowledge, and hope to others.

INTERACTION TIPS FOR TODAY

- Students: Notice effort and praise progress, not only the final result.
- Teachers: Share responsibilities and thank colleagues for their contributions.
- Parents: Communicate appreciation and invite partnership around the student's goals.

REFLECTION How can I make one ordinary responsibility an act of worship today?

PRAYER Lord, thank You for the ability to work and serve. Bless every member of our MUAA family. Keep us humble, strengthen our hands, and let our labor reflect your love. Amen.

DAILY AFFIRMATION Today, I will honor God through humble service, excellent work, and gratitude for every worker.

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Comforted to Comfort

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4 (KJV)

Morning Thought "A compassionate teacher notices the burden a student may not know how to name."

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

The people listening to Jesus understood sorrow. They had experienced hardship, disappointment, loss, and oppression. Jesus assured them that God saw their pain and would bring them comfort.

This Beatitude also speaks about the sorrow we experience when we recognize sin in our lives and in the world around us. Sin separates people from God and causes pain that can be difficult to express. When we honestly acknowledge our sins, turn away from them, and seek God's forgiveness, He comforts us with His mercy and restoring love.

God's comfort is available during every season of grief. As educators, we must remember that our students, coworkers, and parents may be carrying burdens we cannot see. We may not be able to solve every problem, but we can listen, show compassion, offer encouragement, and pray. God often uses our kindness to remind someone that they are not alone.

Jesus does not ignore sorrow; He meets us in it with comfort. Teachers often stand near students and colleagues who carry disappointment, grief, anxiety, or private struggles. We may not have every answer, but we can offer a listening ear, a gentle word, and a prayerful presence. The comfort we receive from God is not meant to stop with us. It equips us to create classrooms where people feel seen, safe, and valued. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to make you attentive to someone who needs kindness.

SCIENCE CONNECTION Living systems use feedback and homeostasis to regain stability. Compassionate support can help a stressed person return to emotional and spiritual balance.

RELATIONSHIP TIPS

- Students: Begin with a private, gentle check-in before offering correction.
- Teachers: Listen fully and protect confidentiality when a colleague shares a burden.
- Parents: Lead difficult conversations with empathy before discussing solutions.

DAILY AFFIRMATION God comforts me, and I will share His compassion with those entrusted to my care.

PRAYER Comforting Father, draw near to every hurting heart. Help me listen with patience, speak with grace, and make room for your healing presence. Amen.

REFLECTION Who may need a quiet word of encouragement from me today?

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Strength Under Control

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

Matthew 5:5 (KJV)

Morning Thought "Gentleness is not weakness; it is strength disciplined by love."

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

The people who heard these words lived in a world where rulers gained power through force and armies took land through violence. The idea that the meek would inherit the earth may have seemed difficult to understand. Even today, meekness is sometimes mistaken for fear or weakness.

However, biblical meekness is not weakness. Meekness is strength under God's control. Jesus demonstrated meekness by surrendering His will to the Father, serving others, and giving His life to save humanity. He possessed unlimited power, yet He chose to use that power with humility, compassion, and love.

As teachers, meekness helps us remain calm when situations become difficult. It allows us to correct students without humiliating them, disagree with colleagues without becoming disrespectful, and communicate with parents without becoming defensive. Meekness gives us the strength to stand for what is right while treating others with dignity.

Meekness is the strength to respond with patience when pressure invites anger. In a busy school day, misunderstandings and interruptions can test our spirit. Jesus calls us to lead with calm courage rather than harshness. A measured response can protect a student's dignity, lower tension, and model Christian character. We do not surrender high standards when we choose gentleness; we communicate those standards in a way that helps others grow.

SCIENCE CONNECTION Balanced forces create stability. Likewise, meekness balances conviction with self-control, allowing strength to be used constructively rather than destructively.

RELATIONSHIP TIPS

- Students: Pause, lower your voice, and restate expectations clearly.
- Teachers: Address disagreements with evidence, respect, and a shared goal.
- Parents: Separate the person from the problem and discuss facts calmly.

DAILY AFFIRMATION By God's grace, I will be calm, teachable, firm, and gentle in every interaction.

PRAYER Father in Heaven, place your gentleness within us today. Give us wisdom before we speak and self-control when we are tested. In the mighty and matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

REFLECTION Where can a calm response make the greatest difference today?

Hungry for What Is Right

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

Matthew 5:6 (KJV)

Morning Thought “The classroom changes when the teacher’s deepest desire is to do what is right before God.”

TODAY’S DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Hunger and thirst are powerful physical needs. Jesus used these examples to describe how deeply we should desire a right relationship with God. Just as our bodies need food and water, our souls need God’s truth, presence, and righteousness.

People often seek Jesus because they want help with personal needs such as healing, financial security, wisdom, or success. God cares about our needs, but He knows that possessions and temporary solutions cannot fully satisfy the soul. Only a close relationship with Him can provide lasting peace and fulfillment.

Jesus is our righteousness. When we seek Him first, study His Word, pray, and allow the Holy Spirit to direct our lives, He fills us with what we need spiritually. His righteousness should also influence how we teach, grade, discipline, communicate, and make decisions.

As educators, we should hunger for truth, fairness, integrity, and excellence. We must ask God to help us do what is right even when it is inconvenient or difficult.

Physical hunger demands attention. Jesus uses that powerful image to describe a heart that earnestly desires righteousness. In education, righteousness appears in honest grading, fair expectations, careful preparation, protection of students, and the courage to correct what is wrong. It also means remaining a learner ourselves. When we seek God’s will more than convenience or recognition, He promises to fill us with the wisdom and spiritual strength needed for our calling.

SCIENCE CONNECTION The scientific method depends on honest observation, reliable evidence, and willingness to revise conclusions. Righteous living requires the same commitment to truth and integrity.

RELATIONSHIP TIPS

- Students: Encourage questions and make honesty safer than hiding mistakes.
- Teachers: Use consistent standards and examine personal bias in decisions.
- Parents: Share specific observations and work together on measurable next steps.

DAILY AFFIRMATION I seek God’s righteousness, and He will guide me to teach with integrity, fairness, and wisdom.

PRAYER Righteous God, deepen my desire for truth and holiness. Guide every decision I make and help me treat each student with justice and grace. Amen.

REFLECTION What is one choice I can make today that demonstrates integrity?

Mercy That Builds Community

“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”

Matthew 5:7 (KJV)

Morning Thought “Mercy makes room for accountability, restoration, and a new beginning.”

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

During the time of Jesus, mercy was not always valued. Some people believed that those who suffered deserved their condition because of their sins. Jesus introduced a different way of responding to people, a way based on compassion, forgiveness, and grace.

God demonstrated His greatest act of mercy by sending Jesus to save us. We did not earn His forgiveness, yet He freely offered it through Christ. Because we have received mercy, we are called to show mercy to others.

Mercy does not mean ignoring wrongdoing or removing accountability. It means addressing problems in a way that leaves room for repentance, learning, restoration, and a new beginning. In the classroom, mercy may involve listening before making a judgment, allowing a student to correct a mistake, or providing support while maintaining appropriate expectations. When working with fellow teachers and parents, mercy means being patient, refusing to hold grudges, and choosing reconciliation whenever possible. Since God continually forgives and restores us, we should be willing to extend that same grace to others.

At the close of the week, we may remember mistakes, our own and those of others. Mercy does not pretend that wrong choices do not matter. It responds in a way that invites confession, learning, restoration, and growth. Jesus reminds us that people who have received mercy should become merciful people. In our school community, forgiveness can repair relationships and discipline can become redemptive. As Sabbath approaches, let us release resentment, seek peace, and thank God for the mercy He renews each day.

SCIENCE CONNECTION An ecosystem thrives through interdependence, repair, and renewed balance. A school community also grows when mercy restores relationships while preserving healthy boundaries.

RELATIONSHIP TIPS

- Students: Use reflection, restitution, and appropriate second chances.
- Teachers: End the week by affirming a colleague and releasing resentment.
- Parents: Keep communication solution-focused and recognize positive change.

DAILY AFFIRMATION Because God has shown mercy to me, I will extend patience, forgiveness, and hope to others.

PRAYER Merciful Father, forgive my shortcomings and help me forgive others. Restore our relationships and prepare our hearts to welcome Your Sabbath peace. Amen.

REFLECTION What do I need to forgive, repair, or place in God's hands before the week ends?

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The Remaining Beatitudes

Jesus continued His message by teaching that the pure in heart will see God, the peacemakers will be called the children of God, and those who are persecuted for righteousness will receive the Kingdom of Heaven. He also promised blessings to those who are criticized, rejected, or mistreated because they faithfully follow Him.

These remaining Beatitudes encourage us to maintain pure motives, promote peace, stand for truth, and remain faithful during difficult circumstances. They remind us that our reward does not always come through recognition from people. Our greatest reward comes from knowing that our lives are pleasing to God.

Matthew Chapter 5 King James Version (KJV)

¹And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

²And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

³Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

¹⁰Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

¹²Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

¹³Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

¹⁴Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

¹⁵Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

- 16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
- 17** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.
- 18** For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.
- 19** Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
- 20** For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.
- 21** Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:
- 22** But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.
- 23** Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;
- 24** Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.
- 25** Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.
- 26** Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.
- 27** Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:
- 28** But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.
- 29** And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.
- 30** And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.
- 31** It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

33 Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths:

34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

40 And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also.

41 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

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