



CHILDREN BROCHURE

MORAVIAN CHURCH – BARBADOS CONFERENCE Provincial Theme: Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T.

S. – Seek & Submit
H. – Hear & Heed
I. – Imagine & Insight
F. – Focus & Function
T. – Totally Transformed

S.H.I.F.T.

Age: 13 yrs. & Over

February 21

Sing with me:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sf4xXhgdKIM>

Memory verse:

Matthew 5:3 (GNT)

Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor;
the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!

Read with me

Isaiah 55:1 – 3 (GNT)

God's Offer of Mercy

55 The Lord says,

“Come, everyone who is thirsty— here is water!
Come, you that have no money— buy grain and eat!
Come! Buy wine and milk— it will cost you nothing!

2 Why spend money on what does not satisfy?
Why spend your wages and still be hungry?

Listen to me and do what I say,
and you will enjoy the best food of all.

3 “Listen now, my people, and come to me;
come to me, and you will have life!
I will make a lasting covenant with you
and give you the blessings I promised to David.

Luke 18:9-14 (GNT)

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

9 Jesus also told this parable to people who were sure of their own goodness and despised everybody else. 10 “Once there were two men who went up to the Temple to pray: one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood apart by himself and prayed, ‘I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, or an adulterer, like everybody else. I thank you that I am not like that tax collector over there. 12 I fast two days a week, and I give you one tenth of all my income.’ 13 But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat on his breast and said, ‘God, have pity on me, a sinner!’ 14 I tell you,” said Jesus, “the tax collector, and not the Pharisee, was in the right with God when he went home. For those who make themselves great will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be made great.”

Let us talk about it

This week, we begin a study of some of the teachings of Jesus. We start our study of the Beatitudes. In the Bible, the Beatitudes are a series of eight blessings, taken from the Sermon on the Mount, beginning at Matthew 5. The Beatitudes, Matthew 5: 3 – 11, communicate that people are blessed even in hard times because they will receive eternity in heaven. Also, we are blessed for having honorable qualities such as being meek, righteous, merciful, pure, and peacemakers.

When we think of being poor, we think of someone who doesn't have a lot of money or nice clothing or food to eat or who may not live in a big house, but this isn't what Jesus is talking about.

Being poor in spirit, as Jesus says it, means realizing that we're spiritually broke. We're poor on the inside. In 1 Samuel 16:7 we read “But the Lord said to him, “Pay no attention to how tall and handsome he is. I have rejected him, because I do not judge as people judge. They look at the outward appearance, but I look at the heart.” This is what God told Samuel as he was sent to find a new king. So, if getting into the kingdom of heaven means you must first be poor in spirit, what do you think Jesus means?

To be poor in spirit means we must have an attitude of humility, and show a dependency upon God. When we are poor in spirit, we must have room for God’s spirit to enter our lives.

Being “poor in spirit” is realizing that we are nothing without Jesus. We must recognize our dependency on God for our daily strength instead of on ourselves. It means not just loving ourselves, but we must love others, and be willing to serve others. Go back to our reading from Luke 18:9-14. Jesus told this parable to people who trusted in themselves rather than in God. The Pharisee thought he was so much better than anyone else. The tax collector recognized where he was lacking. He recognized his spirit was weak, and he needed what God had to offer. The prophet Isaiah, gave us God’s offer of mercy, Isaiah 55:1 - 3. So, the immediate benefit of being poor in Spirit is being forgiven of our sins, and our happiness then comes from being filled with God's Spirit and love, and we become rich in God. So, being empty, or poor in spirit, is exactly what Jesus wants from us. He wants us to see our emptiness, and then ask Him to fill us with Himself. The eternal benefit of being poor in spirit is being able to enter God's heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray

Dear Jesus, without you I am lost, empty and poor. Help me to fill my life with You, and do and say those things that please You.

Hear my prayer, O Lord. Amen

Activity

Some interesting facts about the period of Lent:

- A. Lent is the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter observed as a period of penitence and fasting. Sundays aren't included in the 40-day count.**

- B. Why is Lent 40 days? The number 40 is a significant number for Christians. Jesus spent 40 days in a desert. Noah had to wait 40 days for his ark to float. And Moses, along with his followers, traveled through the wilderness for 40 years before reaching the Promised Land.**

- C. Lent starts on what's known as Ash Wednesday. This is when followers spread ashes on their forehead to signal their repentance to God. The ashes come from burning last year's palms that were distributed on Palm Sunday.**

- D. Lent doesn't actually end on Easter; it ends on Maundy Thursday, the day Jesus had The Last Supper. Good Friday is when Jesus died on the cross, and on Easter Sunday, He rose from the grave.**

More facts next week.