

## ONE CONVERSATION

**Parents:** Ask your student to finish the sentence, “Blessed are the poor in ...” Matthew 5:3 teaches that the poor in spirit are blessed because the kingdom of heaven is theirs. These are the first words of the most famous sermon of all time: the Sermon on the Mount. This sermon is the apex upon which the Old Testament sense of righteousness by the law was set to transition to New Testament righteousness by faith in Jesus. Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus took Old Testament commands and stretched them to their fullest extent to show all of us how we all fall short of God’s standards for righteousness. Jesus preached this sermon to establish the necessity of His coming crucifixion and resurrection. The person who understands the Sermon on the Mount sees how desperately he or she needs Jesus.

Ask your student what the Beatitudes are and verify that he or she understands the purpose of the Sermon on the Mount. Encourage your student to memorize Matthew 5:14 and consider memorizing this verse along with them.

## CENTRAL TRUTH

The Sermon on the Mount shows us how much we need Jesus and it teaches us how to be like Him.

## PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Jesus starts off and almost summarizes the Sermon on the Mount with the first Beatitude; teaching that those who are poor in spirit are actually blessed because they will have the kingdom of heaven. In this sermon that stretches through Matthew 7, Jesus is establishing the necessity of the coming crucifixion and resurrection. We see the attributes of someone who truly gets it in the Beatitudes. We see the proper response to persecution. We see the uselessness of a Christian whose testimony is a fruitless fraud and it leaves us broken. It leaves us poor in spirit and that is precisely the point.
- › **Memorize:** Matthew 5:14
- › **Pray:** Give God glory for the Sermon of the Mount. Offer your heart to God and ask Him to sculpt it until it looks more like these teachings; poor in spirit, blessed in mourning, gentle, hungry and thirsty for righteousness, merciful, pure, and peacemaking even when persecuted. Thank Him for the reward that awaits the persecuted and commit to Him that you will not be like salt that is not salty, but like a lamp that brings light to everyone around you.