

4) "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied."

This blessing is for people who hunger for justice in our world. Children have a great capacity to see wrongs and often possess a simple view of complex issues.

- ▷ *Perhaps our children can use their creativity to solve some of the local injustices in schools and communities.*

5) "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

Mercy is a word that holds many meanings: forgiveness, kindness, compassion. It is easier to extend mercy to others when you begin with yourself. In our family, rather than keeping track of mistakes, we try to see God's grace among us.

- ▷ *With mercy, you receive back the more you give. How can you practise mercy at home?*

6) "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God."

Who better to be clean or pure of heart than little ones? They lack malice and have such innocence, at least during the first few years. Of course, they see God, because there is nothing clouding their vision!

- ▷ *The clean of heart can also be people who single-mindedly see God first in all situations and people.*

7) "Blessed are the peacemakers, they will be called children of God."

What risks do we take to make peace? Jesus asks us all to be peacemakers; we are, after all, children of God. As his children, we must continue to work for unity and understanding.

- ▷ *Our families are microcosms of the world in which we learn peace-making skills. Peace begins at home.*

8) "Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

It can be difficult to do what is right, such as standing up to someone who is acting like a bully.

- ▷ *But we learn from Jesus, and, through practice in our family, we see that doing the right thing is what it really means to be a follower of Jesus.*

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THE SMALLER BEATITUDES

- 1) Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves, they will have no end of fun.
- 2) Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill, they will be saved a lot of bother.
- 3) Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses, they are on the way to becoming wise.
- 4) Blessed are those who know when to be quiet and listen, they will learn a lot of new things.
- 5) Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves too seriously, they will be valued by those about them.
- 6) Happy are you if you can take small things seriously and face serious things calmly, you will go far in life.