



NORES

Supporting Catholic Education and Formation



Secondary Assembly idea for Education Week

What kind of person do you want to be? Exploring the Beatitudes

This assembly focuses on the Beatitudes found in chapter five of Mathew's gospel. It asks students to consider the kind of person Jesus want us to become and how, by trying to live the Beatitudes, we can add to the sum of our own and others happiness. Caritas Australia offer a PowerPoint presentation on the Beatitudes that is easily found on the net. This presents the basic message of each beatitude in an attractive way that will usefully remind students of Jesus' words. Like the Beatitudes themselves, this assembly aims to emphasise that Jesus' teaching is more about a way of thinking . . . a whole way of life rather than just doing this or that to or for others. It's about our underlying attitudes and the way of life these promote in us. A number of simple PP slides could be used to illustrate points as you make them.

Explore: Have you ever wondered how others see you - your friends, your family, those you meet at school? Ask students to quietly think of one or two key words that best describe how they see themselves, then consider for a few moments if they think others would share the same view? Perhaps other would be less or more positive than you would hope? Make the point that your attitude and how you act influences people's view of you and can affect their happiness and your friendship. Your attitude matters!

Consider: How you might like to be remembered as you move on from school. Most of us would like people to remember us fondly – as someone it was nice to know – someone who had the right attitude toward other. In his teaching in Mathew 5, Jesus offers us a vision of blessedness; in other words how we need to BE [Our BE-attitude!] if we hope to be happy and at peace with ourselves, others and God. He also promises that if we act in these ways we will receive blessings from God in return.

Relate: Use a PowerPoint presentation [such as the Australian Caritas PP] to look at each beatitude in turn. Briefly explain any tricky words/concepts [e.g. mourning, meekness, purity of heart, righteousness] whilst emphasising how these characteristics build to make a good, Christ-like person who has an interest in and concern for the wellbeing of others. Measure these characteristics against 'us', how we behave and how we would like people to view/remember us.

Pray:

Lord, take everything from me that distances me from you.

Lord, give me everything that brings me closer to you.

Lord, help me to know your will for me and to live for others and you first lived for me.

Amen

Sing: O God, you search me and you know me [Bernadette Farrell]