

March is here! It is time for a new Bible story for the new month. As always, you and your entire family are invited to read and listen and create and pray around our selected story.

There will be two additional online Learning Together lessons this month, one per week, and on the fourth week, Sunday School will meet on Sunday, March 23, 2025, at our church.

"The Singer" is the name of our new story, and it can be found in the book The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones on pages 228-235. A free copy of this book is available at our church, Resurrection Lutheran Church, in New Berlin, or you can order a copy online.

Below you will find a **Children** section, an **Adult** section, and a wrap-up section for **Children and Adults** together.

If you have comments or questions, please use this blog to submit them to Pastor Matt, who welcomes discussion.

Children

If you have been to this website before, you know what my next direction will be: I want you to find a good place to relax and just listen to "The Singer" story being read to you in the video recording above. Imagine you are one of the group of people sitting and listening to Jesus as He taught them from the side of a hill, as shown below.



Jesus often found himself being followed by crowds of people wanting to hear His words, and often He would find a comfortable spot to gather them and teach them about His truth and love.

Jesus knew that all of His listeners had problems and difficulties in life, just as we today have. He shared how God's love could make their lives better. Even to the very poor, Jesus said not to worry about food or clothes. Why?

Birds and flowers were created by God to be able to take care of themselves. Both were given the knowledge to be able to find food and water. Both were given the ability to live

through cold winters or exist in hot deserts. Both were given the ways to defend themselves. They don't need to worry about those things.

So, if God feels that way about the birds and flowers He created, imagine how much more He feels that way about us, His beloved flock of lambs whom He loves the best! He knows each of our names!

Now God wants us to use the gifts and talents that He has given us to live lives that are full of love, courage, and faith. Every one of God's people needs to work to find their destined path in life and to love the people we encounter as we go.

The words of our God's song are that He made us, He loves us, and He is very pleased with us. He sent Jesus to sing that song on earth so all His people can hear it if they choose.

Adults

The Biblical reference is Matthew 5-7.

The Sermon on the Mount could be the most well-known teaching of Jesus. It's packed with valuable wisdom that has stood the test of time and informs our lives as followers of Jesus today just as much as it did back when it was given.

Whether you're well-versed on the Sermon on the Mount or are exploring it for the first time, there's always something new to discover. Below, check out the first three of ten interesting facts you may or may not have known about the Sermon on the Mount.

The Sermon on the Mount location - The exact Sermon on the Mount location is believed to be on a hilltop in Israel, somewhere near the Sea of Galilee. We don't know the exact spot, but the Mount of Beatitudes is often agreed upon as the place where Jesus gave this teaching. The landscape is serene, overlooking the water, and served as a picturesque backdrop.

The sermon covers 3 chapters of Matthew - The Sermon on the Mount is captured over 3 chapters in Matthew - chapters 5 through 7. It's one of the longest continuous logs of Jesus' spoken word recorded in the Bible, and if you read it aloud start to finish, it would take roughly 15 minutes to read. However, in real-time it likely would have taken Jesus several hours - maybe even the better part of a day - to deliver!

It begins with the beatitudes - The Sermon on the Mount starts with the Beatitudes. The term "beatitudes" comes from the Latin word *beati*, which means "blessed." When you read this section in the Bible that makes sense, since each statement starts with the word "blessed." Statements like, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 5:3) and "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9) reveal God's heart for humility, mercy, and peace.

This topic of interesting facts about The Sermon on the Mount will continue in the Adult sections of the next two March lessons.

Children and Adults

February 23, 2025, will be the date of the next gathering of Sunday Schoolers at our church. All ages are welcome to attend. Mark it on your calendar.

~This Week's Prayer~

Dear Jesus, help me follow God's teachings
to live a life of love. Amen

Be careful crossing the street,
Margo Greer