



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 2

Life and Action
Blessed are you when
people insult you for
Jesus' sake

Bible Readings
Matthew 5 and 6
Matthew 22:34-40
Romans 8:28



Blessed are you when people insult you for Jesus' sake

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Consider the possibility that somehow, those who are insulted are blessed.
- Recite at least one verse of Scripture from memory.
- See that God can use painful experiences for good purposes.

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question Can bad things in our life be used for good?

Blessed are you when people insult you for Jesus' sake

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

Discussion starter question:

What do you think of the idea that those who are insulted are 'blessed'?

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: Matthew 5:11-16
Matthew 22:34-40

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Mt. 5:11-12.

Jesus says some weird sounding stuff sometimes, doesn't he? You probably wouldn't feel very blessed if people insulted you because of your faith. But Jesus says you are. Why?

In the next part of Matthew chapter 5, Jesus tells his disciples that they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. They are called to live differently and to shine Jesus' light into the world. If people are insulting you because of your faith, you must be doing something right; you must be shining some sort of light or else why would they insult you?!

You, as the salt of the earth, must be leaving some kind of taste on people's mouths. That's one way that insults could be used as a blessing - they're proof that your faith is making a noticeable difference!

Another thought: In 1 Peter 1:7, it says "These (trials and suffering) have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed". Our faith - our relationship with Jesus - is worth more than gold. If we can really come to cherish our faith strongly, then we can use even the worst insults as encouragement, because they are an opportunity to prove to God just how genuine our faith is and how serious we are about standing our ground.

And if we slip and fall... well, God's waiting with open arms and is ready to give us a new beginning when we ask.

Explore – Express

- Choose a verse or a passage from this week's readings and commit it to memory.
- Spend some time rehearsing it, until you can repeat it from memory.
- Join together as a group, with each person sharing the verse they chose to remember, and explaining why they chose it.

Blessed are you when people insult you for Jesus' sake

Explore – Integrate

- Imagine you were being insulted because of your beliefs (or remember a time when you have been). What would make such a situation easier to cope with?
- Do you think that God really can use bad things (e.g. insults) for good in the end?
- Are there any 'bad things' which have happened in your life that have been used for good?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Recite together:

God our Father,

Help us to fix our eyes on Jesus,

Who endured the cross,

Scorning its shame,

And sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Help us to consider him,

Who endured such opposition from sinful men,

So that we will not grow weary and lose heart.

Amen.

(Adapted from Hebrews 12:2-3)