

FAMILY PAGE: BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST

FAMILY QUESTION: WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE NOTICE SOMEONE DOES NOT HAVE WHAT THEY NEED?

Many of the people Jesus accompanied were very hungry—for literal food, but also for justice. One understanding of "righteousness" is justice. God's justice means we make sure everyone has what they need. When we partner with God to bring justice to the earth, we are working toward a world where living things live in right and healthy relationships. We all fight for justice in many different ways. Are there particular issues that your family engages in? Do you hunger for environmental righteousness? Racial and gender equality righteousness? Senior care righteousness? Discuss how your family works for justice for each other and those around you and work on one action you can do to grow your justice-seeking at home and in the world.

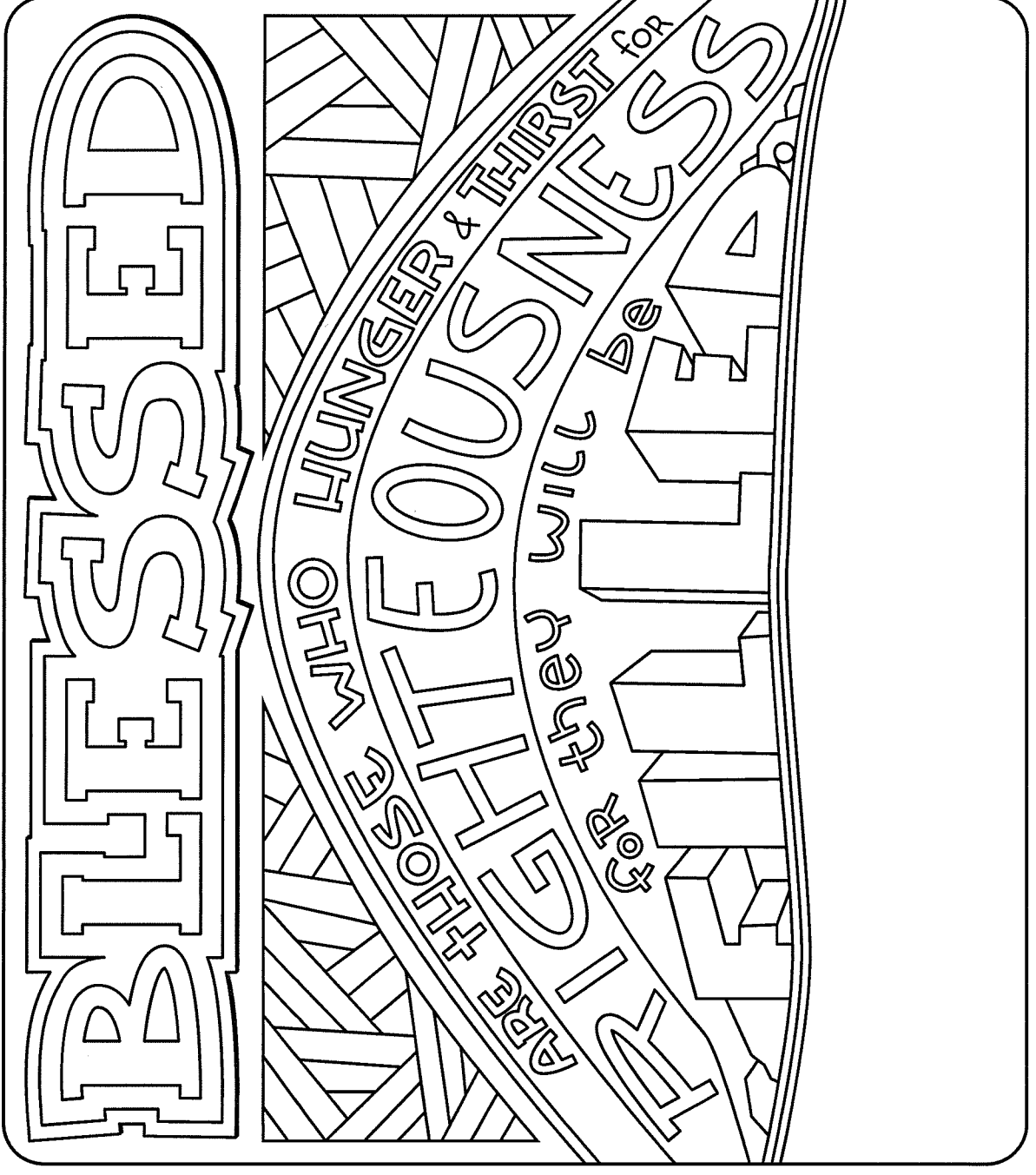
BRIEF REFLECTION

A huge crowd of people followed Jesus. He saw their hurts and pains and cared for them in many ways. He led them to a mountain and told them about God's kingdom. You can think of a "kingdom" as the way the world works or is set up. In God's kingdom, there is abundance: more than enough honor, food, money, love, power, and resources for everyone to thrive.

Jesus says, "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*" How does it feel to be really hungry or thirsty? Have you ever felt that way for something other than food? Hunger is an ache—something that keeps getting stronger and stronger. We can't ignore or forget that we're hungry; it can become the only thing we think about. Many of the people Jesus spent time with were very hungry. They may not have had enough food or water, but their stomachs were not the only parts of their bodies that were hungry. Their hearts were hungry for righteousness. That's a big word meaning justice. This was how Jesus wanted the world to be—a place where people lived good lives not for their own sake, but for everyone else's too. Jesus teaches the people how God's justice means we make sure everyone has what they need. There are right and healthy relationships between people and with all living things. There were a lot of ways things were not right for the people listening to Jesus. In that time, some people had a lot of money and power. They used what they had to dominate other people. Some people were poor and felt powerless. Jesus speaks here to the people who feel that ache for a better world—God's kind of world. Jesus knows their hearts are hungering more and more for relationships and systems to be fair and right. Just like we need food to live, we need love, hope, and healthy connections with others. Jesus understands and cares about all these needs. And part of feeling hungry for something is working for it—doing what we can to make what we hunger for come true. Sometimes this takes a lot of patience, focus, and hard work—it doesn't come easily or fast. So, whenever we are feeling hungry for the world to be better and healthier than it is, let's remember we are part of bringing God's kingdom to earth.

PRAYER

Loving God, We want to keep pushing and working for justice in your world, making it a beautiful and loving place for all your children. Please help us lead lives of hope and healthy relationship, and to see ourselves as one family. Amen.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How does it feel to be really, really hungry or thirsty?

Have you ever felt hungry for something other than food?

Is there an issue of justice you are hungry to see made right?

In the coloring page's blank space, write or draw what this beatitude looks like or means to you, or write or draw a modern-day version of the beatitude.

