

# Connecting Church and Home

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Quarter 1, Week 4 :: **The Citizens of the Kingdom**

**Treasure Story:** Matthew 5:1-16

Many kids create their own exclusive group or club and only allow certain friends “in” as members. One of the most memorable clubs was from the movie *The Little Rascals*, *The He-man Woman Haters Club*. To be in the club was simple—you could not have anything to do with girls. As followers of Jesus, we are a part of an exclusive club made possible only through Him.

## Connect

“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”  
– Philippians 3:20-21

In Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, He begins with what is known as the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes make it clear what it means to be citizens of the kingdom of God. These qualities bring blessings to those who possess them. Some of these blessings are future blessings (Matthew 5:4-9) and others are immediate blessings (Matthew 5:3, 10). These blessings could not be possible unless they were paid by the blood of Christ. As you participate in the following activities, remember the awesomeness of being a part of God’s kingdom.

- **Name That Club:** In this activity, you will name some clubs, and the object is to see what activity or interest is associated with that club or organization. For example, you could say “PGA,” and the correct answer would be “people who play professional golf.” All who know Jesus as Savior are members too. We are not members of a club, but our membership is in His kingdom which will last forever.
- **Something in Common:** Next time you and your children are at a membership-only club, for example the YMCA, remind them of this lesson. All the members of this particular club are members who have something in common. As citizens of God’s kingdom, we also have something in common. We gain membership through Jesus.

## My Mission As Parent

- Take some time to read the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5:2-12. Examine each of the qualities that Jesus describes and see how your life aligns with them. Ask God to help you put these qualities into practice and live as a joyful citizen of His kingdom.
- The second half of today’s lesson encourages believers to be salt and light in the world. Are you being salt and light in your workplace or in your community? God desires for us to be a light to unbelievers and to proclaim the goodness of God. Be an encouragement to your family by being a beacon of light to unbelievers.

## Prayer Points

- Thank the Lord for allowing us citizenship in heaven through His Son.
- Thank Jesus that He gives us the grace to display the qualities found in the Beatitudes.
- Praise Jesus that He died for us and allows us access to the Father.