- Empty pan (lightly coated with butter)
- 1 1/2 cups crushed graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup sweetened flaked coconut
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 (14 oz) can sweetened condensed milk
- Oven heated to 350 degrees F (bake 20-25 minutes, until golden brown)

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|---|---|
| Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. | Empty pan |
| Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. | Crushed graham crackers |
| Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. | Melted butter |
| Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. | Walnut pieces |
| Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. | Milk chocolate chips |
| Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God | Coconut flakes |
| Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God | Sweetened condensed milk |
| Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. | Heat of the oven |

**v3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Have you ever felt distant from God? What does that feel like? Poor in spirit means you feel empty and know you need God. Our pan has an empty space inside it. We can remember that we are created with an empty space in our being that is meant to be filled with God.

**v4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

What's the saddest thing that's ever happened to you? Sometimes we can feel crushed by our sadness and at a loss for how to move on. Mourners are people who are sad about something that is missing or lost in their lives. Jesus is saying that we are blessed when we know that we are missing God, and need God. Jesus is saying that when we look around at the world, we mourn that there is so much need for God and need to recognize that Jesus is here to guide us. The crushed graham crackers remind us of those who mourn.

**v5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

What makes a person humble? Meek means "humble" which is an attitude or quality of heart

whereby a person is willing to accept and submit without resistance to the will of God. Have you ever met anyone who thinks they don't need God? Who thinks they are #1 and in charge and can do it all on their own? That's not a meek person. A meek person is blessed to know that God is #1 and God is in charge. Our melted butter flows and conforms to the shape it is put in so it can be useful in holding the crackers together and building our crust.

**v6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**
What do you feel like and think about when you're really thirsty or hungry? Jesus wants us to be hungry for doing right. Have you ever been thirsty and couldn't wait to find a cold drink? Jesus wants us to feel that way about following God's will and serving others —to thirst for it. We see the broken places, just like we have these broken pieces of walnuts and we yearn and work to find ways to bring God's justice to those places.

**v7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.**
**I**f someone is mean to you, calls you a name or pushes you, what do you think of doing?
Jesus says that we should be merciful to others, not return evil for evil, knowing that we need mercy ourselves. Another way to say "mercy" is "forgiving" someone who has done you wrong and giving another chance. Our milk chocolate chips represent mercy.

**v8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**
Try this... cover your eyes and tell me what you can see. By "pure" Jesus means "clear" or "honest." (Not sinless, all people sin.) Those who take a good honest look at their lives; those who know they need to grow their faith and deal with their problems, will best be able to see God trying to guide them. Dishonesty and denial are like blinders. If you think you don't need God, you won't be looking for God, and won't take God's help when it's right in front of you. Our pure white coconut reminds us of the pure in heart—it comes from the heart of the coconut.

**v9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**
Is peace the absence of external problems? No. Notice that Jesus says "peace MAKERS." Jesus wants us to actively work to bring peace within our families, between us and others, between groups and nations. If you're not making peace, you are not acting like God's children. Our sweetened condensed milk flows peacefully over the other ingredients bringing them all together in harmony.

**v10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
**11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

Let's look at hese last two Beatitudes together and pull out the key words: persecute and revile. What do those words mean? Jesus was letting his disciples know that living out their faith and standing up for their belief in him would probably bring trouble from doubters and non-believers. Jesus had the same problem, and they crucified him for his faith and the actions he took to live out his faith. To hold us together, Jesus reminds us that heaven (being with God) is real and God has a special place for those who stand strong in their faith. The heat of the oven is like persecution….but the heat of the oven also brings all of the ingredients together and makes them into one new thing. *Like God’s promise of being with us, brings us together to endure the challenges of our lives lived in faith, to transcend the ways of the world, and to enter into life in God’s Kingdom where the values of the world are turned upside down.*

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