

Lesson 12: I Should Be Merciful Too!

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Discuss mercy and verses that talk about our need to show mercy to others
- 2) Study the Unmerciful Servant and see what Jesus says about our need to be merciful
- 3) Do activities that remind us of our need to show mercy and be merciful to others.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template from previous week)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Unmerciful Servant Color Page- one per child
- Unmerciful Servant Word Search - one per child

Optional:

- **Video (Veggie Tales - God Wants Me to Forgive Them?)** if available would also need a computer and Veggie Tales disc, or T.V. and video player

Truth and Mercy Necklaces

- Yarn or necklace wire from craft store - one per child long enough to go around neck and be tied,
- if using necklace wire you will need to buy the clasp to tie it up at the back. One per child.
- beads of various colors - enough to go around just the bottom half of the necklace
- beads that spell out TRUTH and MERCY -one set per child. (If you cannot find these you can get a sharpie marker and have them write T-R-U-T-H and M-E-R-C-Y on beads.)
- Sharpie Marker

Snack:

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|--------------------------|-------------------|
| - Chocolate Coins | 3 or so per child |
| - Napkins for snack | one per child |
| - Juice or water and cup | one per child |

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson - Discussion on the need to be merciful 10-15 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance and let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week. Once children are seated say, "**Last week we learned another characteristic about God - can anyone raise their hand and tell me what we learned so far about God?** (Have children raise hands and answer - God is love, God is worthy of praise, God is faithful, God is fair and just, God provides, God is merciful.)

Last week we learned that God is merciful. He forgives us for the wrongs we do and does not hold it against us, thanks to Jesus! Just as a reminder what does mercy mean? (Allow kids to raise hands and allow for answers, example: forgiving someone, treating someone with love even if they don't deserve it)

Mercy is not getting the punishment you deserve but instead getting love and kindness.

This week we are going to learn that just like God is merciful we should be merciful too! Let's turn to our Bibles and read from Matthew 5:7. Let's start reading.

Matthew 5:7," Blessed is the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Who is blessed? The ones that show mercy or the merciful

In what way will they be blessed? They shall receive mercy from God as well.

When we show mercy, God says we obtain mercy from Him as well. He also says we are blessed when we show mercy.

Luke 6:36 says:

Luke 6:36 "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Why should we be merciful? Because God our Father is! If we want to please God and be like Him and His Son we need to be merciful too. We need to forgive those who do bad things to us even though they deserve punishment.

What are ways we can show mercy to others? Forgive when someone does wrong to us.

Why is mercy so important? Because God showed mercy to us first and without it we are still wrong for all our sins.

God says we are to love mercy - we should love to have opportunities to recognize when God has shown mercy to us and when we can have opportunities to show mercy to others!

Because God is Merciful, I will _____. Think about what you would do to fill in the blank. What are you willing to do?

God expects us to be merciful to others because He is merciful to us! Let's not forget that.

2) Unmerciful Servant and Color Page

15-20 minutes

Hand out one color page to each student. Before handing out crayons tell them: We are going to read what Jesus says in Matthew 18:21-35. Listen to the story Jesus tells and look at the picture before you.

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came to Him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" "No not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!" Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold - along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned - to pay the debt. But the man fell down before his master and begged him, "Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all." Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few hundred dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. "Be patient with me, and I will pay it," he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said,

"You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you!" In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Hand out crayons and allow children to color. Have them write their name somewhere on the page. Then ask questions below as they work:

Peter asked a very understandable question: How many times should I forgive someone who sins against me? Peter probably thought he was being generous in suggesting seven times!

Jesus answers the question with the story we just read from the Bible that reveals the heart of the matter. The man who owed the king millions of dollars (by today's standards) could never hope to pay back his debt.

What did the king do? (Gave him mercy by forgiving the debt.)

NOTE: Help children link the king's actions to mercy.

If you were the man who was forgiven, how would you feel? (Let students respond)

How did the man show his gratitude? (He didn't. He went out and showed no mercy to someone who owed him a little.)

How did the king respond to the man's lack of mercy to someone who owed him money?

(Put him in jail and forced him to pay the debt that had been forgiven.)

What do you think Jesus wanted Peter to learn from this story about mercy and forgiveness? (God is willing to forgive us of ALL our sins, so we should forgive those who sin against us.)

Because God is merciful, He wants us to receive His mercy.

Because God is merciful, He is filled with joy when we are sorry when we sin, confess it, and accept His mercy.

NOTE: We can never outdo God's mercy. He has given us more mercy than we will ever be asked to give someone else.

When have you given mercy to someone when he or she really deserved anger and punishment?

Is there anyone you need to show mercy to right now?

Because God is Merciful, He gives us the ability to be merciful to others. We can look to God and Jesus as examples on how to be merciful!

3) Unmerciful Servant Word Search 10 minutes

Hand out a word search to each child along with a pencil. Read the words to the children and tell them they may be found up, down, left, right, backwards or diagonal.

4) Optional - Truth and Mercy Necklace 10-15 minutes

This craft is to show that like the verse, we can remember to always be truthful and to show mercy.

Hand out a necklace string to each child along with some beads. If you have purchased different colors let them choose. If you were able to find necklace beads that spelled out words, hand out the letters TRUTH and MERCY to each child, if you were not able, hand out a sharpie marker or for smaller children do it in advance and write the letters **T-R-U-T-H** and **M-E-R-C-Y** on beads for each child. Make sure there are an odd number of beads so one bead sits at the bottom of the necklace and even numbers of beads go up each side. You could have one plain bead then the word TRUTH followed by three beads and then the word MERCY followed by one plain bead for example.



If you purchased necklace wire have the children put a clasp on or if you used yarn or string tie a bow around their necks so that the necklace has the beads at the bottom. As they are working on their necklace, read the verse below.

Proverbs 3:3 “Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart”

Does God really expect us to write on our hearts? No, but it is the idea that we should study this concept of being truthful and merciful and know it in our hearts.

When God says bind these ideas of mercy and truth around your neck, does it mean you should always wear this necklace? You can, but what God means is that you keep these qualities of mercy and truth close to you and around you so you will never forget them. You should remember to act merciful and truthful.

5) Optional – Veggie Tales Show “You want me to forgive them?” 32 minutes

If you have access to this movie, allow the kids to sit down and watch it either from your computer on a disk, or from a T.V. /Projector and video player if available. Discuss questions and ideas afterwards while enjoying the chocolate coins snack below.

6) Optional – Snack : Chocolate Coins 5 minutes

Hand out chocolate coins to each child and say: “This **snack reminds us of the unmerciful servant who even when forgiven his debt and shown mercy, he would not forgive his fellow servant a small debt. Sometimes money can get in the way of friendships. God says we need to remember to be merciful and not let things like material possessions get in the way of being merciful. Just like these chocolate coins that we eat and they disappear, so is our material possessions. Nothing lasts forever, except God and his plan for us to have salvation in heaven with him. Let’s remember that coins can come and go, but God is forever!** Also hand out a glass of water or juice and napkin for children to clean their hands. Remind children to clean up after themselves with the napkin making sure their cups and garbage are put in the garbage and that they clean up any crumbs from the table before going on to the next activity. While they are eating review what they learned.

7) Close in prayer

When you talk with Him today, ask Him to show you how to give mercy to others and then the power to act on it! Thank God for His Son who died on the cross so we could have an opportunity to obtain mercy. And thank God for his willingness to give us mercy and set the example for us so we would know how to show mercy to others and to realize even when we do, it will never compare to the great mercy shown to us by God.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!