

Blessed Are the Merciful

Focus

Forgiving others is a very important way of showing mercy.

Today's Tip

Before class starts write these words on the chalkboard:
"I will show mercy by..."

Supplies Needed:

- Chalkboard or large poster board
- White paper or construction paper for each student
- Markers



Welcome and Singing

- Welcome guests & take attendance.
- Ask questions about their week.
- Lead group in a chorus or two.
- Take prayer requests and pray for your class time together.
- Announce subject of today's lesson and pass out worksheets.



Intro to the Story

Another word for mercy is **faithfulness/compassion**. Jesus was **full of compassion** as He went about meeting the needs of others. Micah 6:8 says that we are to "love kindness." Like Jesus, we should **love** to meet the needs of others. The **greatest act** of mercy Jesus showed was in suffering and dying for our sins on the cross, so we can find forgiveness and peace with God. Jesus also forgave those who rejected Him and treated Him cruelly. **Forgiving others** is another very important way of showing mercy. In the following story, think about how Audrey learned to show mercy.



The Story/The Passage

Audrey was a top student, especially when it came to writing. Dena found writing to be very difficult. She would rather be outdoors playing softball or flag football with friends. One day in English class, Mrs. Williams gave an assignment to write a short story that would be due the next week. Audrey could hardly wait to get started, but Dena's heart was filled with dread. How could she possibly do this assignment? She knew she couldn't skip it – her grades were already plenty low in English.

Grade 5 - Quarter 1 - Lesson 5

As the two girls were walking home from school, Dena asked Audrey if she would help her write her story. "Of course not," said Audrey, "that's your responsibility."

"I'm not asking you to **do** my assignment," said Dena. "Just give me some pointers and ideas to help me get started. You are so good at writing."

"No," said Audrey quickly, "You can think of something. You have a mind." Dena was quiet and said no more.

As Audrey was having her time with God before going to bed, she thought about how she had spoken to Dena after school. Dena **did** have a very hard time writing, she remembered. She thought about her own lack of compassion and knew that Jesus would have acted differently. She asked God to forgive her and to show her how to help Dena.

The next morning, as Dena was walking by Audrey's house on the way to school, Audrey ran out and joined her. "Hi, Dena," she said. "Let's talk about that short story assignment. I can give you some suggestions."

Dena glanced at her, quite surprised. "Are you sure?" she asked.

"Yes, and I'm sorry I was so rude yesterday! Last night, I prayed and God showed me some ideas to share with you to help you get started. Let's get together right after school!"

"Oh, thank you," said Dena. "You'll never know how much this means to me! You've made my day!"



Memory Verse

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." - Matthew 5:7
He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8



Lesson Activity

Circle the letters. Solve the puzzle by completing the sentence in the box below.

STEP 1

In Row One, circle every third letter.

In Row Two, circle every fourth letter.

Row One: E G W P L I E O L A R L C Y B E T E I O S N G H T O O H D W B F N

Row Two: R Y N (M) G M J (E) S H E (R) S U E (C) N B F (Y)

STEP 2

Separate the circled letters into four words that complete the sentence below.

Those who are merciful

w i l l b e s h o w n m e r c y .

Hand out sheets of white paper or construction paper to each student. Have a different student read each of the references below. Where appropriate, discuss who showed mercy, and to whom was it shown.

Luke 6:36

Leviticus 19:18

Psalms 41:4

Micah 6:8

Micah 7:18

Matthew 7:12

Luke 4:40

Deuteronomy 22:1-3

Luke 10:30-37

Ephesians 4:32

Colossians 3:12-13

In the center of their paper have students write in bold letters, what you wrote on the chalkboard. Around these words, have them write how and to whom they will show mercy. Each person should think of 5 or 6 ways he/she could show mercy to someone else. An example could be; "I will show mercy to my little brother by reading to him." When finished, have students draw arrows from the center words to each example they have written. Have them take their papers home and post them in a visible place to remind them to show mercy. After everyone has finished, have each student share one item they have written.

Prayer

For prayer time students pray sentence prayers about showing mercy. Close the prayer.

Craft - Beatitude Game

Have students write today's beatitude on their game.