

HAPPY ARE THE MERCIFUL

Week 3 Large Group Script

Prop Suggestions: smiley faces to hang on the wall in your large group space.

-SLIDE- Welcome

Start kids countdown once all classes are present

-SLIDE- Series Intro (2-5 min)

Hey kids! Welcome to kids church. I'm so glad you could be here today. We're gonna have fun, right? Let's get started.

We're in our third week learning about Jesus' most famous sermon. Who remembers what it was called? **(allow a few kids to answer)** Right! The Sermon on the Mount. Where did He teach this famous sermon? **(allow a few kids to answer)**. Excellent, on the side of a mountain. The topic He was teaching about was how to be happy. The point of His teachings was to present a whole new way to think about real happiness.

What did we learn in week one about where true happiness starts? Hint: it was our Big Idea. **(allow a few kids to answer)** Fantastic! Happiness starts by knowing we need God. Last week we learned how to stay happy. Does anyone remember what we need to do to stay happy? It was our Big Idea last week. **(allow a few kids to answer)** Good, we have to stay hungry for God. Now, what did we learn staying hungry for God means? Did it have to do with eating food? **(allow a few kids to answer)** Right! No, being hungry for God has nothing to do with food. It's all about having good habits that make us think about God all the time.

Today, we're going to learn about another key to happiness. It's all about mercy. Who's heard of that word before? **(allow a few kids to answer)** Any thoughts on what it means? **(allow a few kids to answer)** Those are some good thoughts. If you don't know anything about mercy, don't worry, our whole lesson today explains what mercy is and why it helps us to be happy.

We'll talk some more about that in a few minutes but let's get ready to sing our first song, **Happy Day**. This is our song for the whole series. It's all about being happy for all that Jesus did for us by dying on the cross for our sins. And you know what, Jesus dying for our sins is an act of mercy! You'll find out why in a few minutes.

Let's sing nice and loud and praise Him!

-SONG- Happy Day (3 min)

That was great! Good job. I think God loves to hear all your voices praising Him. Now, let's sit down so we can hear about our Big idea and Key Question for the day.

-SLIDE- Big Idea: If you can learn mercy, you will get mercy. (repeat with kids)

-SLIDE- Key Question: What is mercy?

Answering this question will help us understand what mercy is all about. Let's listen to the video to see if it helps us answer this question.

-VIDEO- Get Happy Week 3 (2 min)

-SLIDE- Recap (3 min)

So, what did we learn from the video today? Let's review...

- What is mercy? (not punishing someone who deserves it)
- How can you show mercy to someone who breaks something of yours? (forgive)
- How can we show mercy to our friends? (habit of being nice)

Mercy is how we choose to respond to someone who has hurt or disappointed us. Instead of wanting to punish them, or get back at them, you let them off the hook. Now, don't misunderstand, it's not about letting them get away with bad behavior. It's about getting their attention another way that makes them think about what they did and what they could do differently next time.

Here's an example, let's say you disobeyed your parents and went to a friend's house after school even though you were told to go straight home. Your friend just wanted to show you a video game they just got. You would only be a little late. Now, you know you made the wrong choice. As you walk home, you feel bad and worry about how bad the consequences will be when you get there. You walk in the door expecting to be yelled at and grounded for a week. But, instead, your parents sit you down and talk to you. They explain the importance of the rule of coming straight home. They explain that it's about safety. They need to know where you are at all times. They mention how your actions affected your mom who was panicking and worried not knowing where you were. And then, instead of

sending you to your room, they say "we won't punish you this time but remember this conversation for the next time. Wow! I bet that would get your attention!

Sometimes, mercy speaks just as loud as a punishment. It catches you by surprise. You can still learn your lesson through an act of mercy. And, you get the added gift of not paying a consequence. Now, that's a reason to be happy!

Do you know this is what God has done for us. We've talked about sin before and how we can't ever be good enough for God on our own. That's why God sent Jesus. Jesus went to the cross and paid the consequence for OUR sin on the cross. God showed mercy to us! We deserve punishment for our sins but Jesus took it for us.

Isn't that great! Mercy is an amazing thing, isn't it? Do you see why you can be happy and thankful when you realize how merciful God has been to you? Then, you can show others mercy because you know how great a gift it is. That's what our memory verse is all about.

Stand up and let's say our memory verse for this week.

-SLIDE- Memory Verse: Happy **(smile with pointer fingers pushing corners of mouth up)** are those who are merciful **(arms open wide)**, for they will be shown **(extend hands out like giving someone something)** mercy. Matthew 5:7
(Repeat)

Great job! I hope you practice that at home this week. I challenge all of you to memorize this verse. It's nice and short.

Now let's sing again, praising God for His mercy. Let's worship!

-SONG- We will Dance (3 min)

Great job! Let's take a look at the Key Question again.

-SLIDE- Key Question: What is mercy?

-SLIDE- Answer: Not punishing someone who deserves it.

You can show mercy in more than one way. Not punishing someone can be through forgiveness. You can show mercy by forgiving someone for a mistake and not

holding it over their head. You can also show mercy by just making a habit of being nice. Put your friends ahead of yourself. As you treat others this way, chances are good they will do the same to you.

-SLIDE- Big Idea: If you can learn mercy, you will get mercy.

Before we pray, I wanted to remind you of our special outreach we are doing for other kids around the world.

-SLIDE- Operation Christmas Child

This is a special opportunity for you to bless other kids around the world. Did you know that lots of kids never have any presents to open on Christmas? Not only that, they don't have any toys to call their own. But, you can change that! You can fill a shoebox full of special things to bless another child and show them the love of God. Have your parents pick up an information sheet at the KC desk today. Remember, boxes are due **October 26th**.

-SLIDE- Let's Pray

-SLIDE- Let's go to small groups