

LESSON OVERVIEW

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

Key Question: What is mercy?

Memory Verse: *Happy are those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Matthew 5:7*

Overview: We are continuing to learn about Jesus' famous sermon called the Sermon on the Mount when Jesus stood on the mountain and taught the people about happiness. It was different than anything the people had heard before. The reason-Jesus was telling the people a whole new way to be happy. We've learned that happiness starts with knowing we need God. Last week we learned that staying happy means we need to be hungry for God. Being hungry for God means you want to follow Him and do things that make you think of Him. Things like; reading your Bible and praying. This week, we're learning about a fancy word called mercy. Mercy means not giving someone a punishment they deserve. Maybe your parents have shown you mercy by not giving you a consequence for something you did wrong. You deserved it but they chose not to do it. That's mercy! Did you know that God has shown us mercy, too? We deserve to be punished for our sin, but He chose not to make us pay and had Jesus pay the consequence for us. When we understand that we have been shown mercy, we can show mercy to others. Then, we'll be happy!

CLASSROOM AGENDA

5 min **PLAY:** Begin working on Activity Page #1.

5 min **WARM UP:** List some rules in your house. What are the consequences if you don't follow them?

5 min **PREVIEW:** Draw the bubbles on a whiteboard and fill in the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question. (If applicable, have kids fill in their bubbles on the Kids Activity Page.)

20 min **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.

5 min **RECAP:** Read the Lesson Overview from the Teacher's Guide and then answer the KEY QUESTION.

5 min **EXPLORE:** Read [1 Peter 2:9-10](#). How has God shown us mercy? How does knowing that we need mercy change the way we treat others?

10 min **PLAY:** Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.

5 min **CLOSE:**

- Who can you show mercy to this week?
- Share prayer requests and pray as a class.

TEACHER TIPS

Allow each kid to share. The point: get the kids thinking about consequences (punishments) for wrong behavior and how unpleasant it is to be punished.

Answer: Mercy- not punishing someone who deserves it. Mercy looks like this:

1. "I could punish you, but I choose not to."
2. It's forgiving someone instead of making them feel bad for their mistake.
3. It's making a habit of being nice.

Showing mercy to can have a greater impact on someone than just giving them what they deserve for wrong behavior.

Bonus Questions:

K-st: Have you ever disobeyed your parents and not received the punishment you deserved? Share.

2nd-5th: Have you disobeyed your parents and not received the punishment you deserved? Did that response encourage you to continue the "bad" behavior or did it make you want to change it? Explain.

Understanding our own need for mercy should affect the way we treat others. God chose to be merciful to us. We won't receive the just punishment for our sins because Jesus paid for it all on the cross. When we understand the enormity of that gift, we will have thankful hearts that want to be merciful to others in our lives.

Option #1

Mercy Me Relay

Get the Big Idea in the right order. Place two buckets at one end of the room filled with strips of paper with the words that make up the Big Idea, one word per strip. Have kids line up behind two taped lines at the other end of the room. On "go", have kids hop on two feet to the bucket and pull a strip of paper from the bucket and place it on the floor next to the bucket. Continue until all strips are gone. Then have kids put the words in the correct order to say the Big Idea. First team to do it wins.

Other large motor options: run and skip

Supplies needed

- strips of paper with one word of Big Idea on each, 2 sets
- two buckets
- tape

Bonus Activity:

Play Bible Hangman.

Words:

mercy
forgive

Option #2

Get Happy Target Game

Hit the target, solve the Big Idea puzzle. On a whiteboard, put blanks for each word of the Big Idea. Do two sets because teams will compete to fill in their blanks. Then, place three paper plates on the floor in a line. Tape two lines, far enough from the plates to make it somewhat challenging to hit the target, and have teams line up behind the lines. Each kid gets a chance to throw a paper wad at one of the plates, if they hit the target, they get to fill in the next blank. Continue until one team fills in all their blanks and can say the Big Idea.

Supplies needed

- paper wads
- whiteboard/markers
- three paper plates
- tape

Bonus Activity:

Play Bible Hangman

Words:

habit
Matthew

1 Discover Truth

Watch this week's lesson video as a family (see link above) and fill in the blanks.

1. _____ is not punishing someone who deserves it.
2. Mercy says, "I _____ punish you, but I _____ not to.
3. Mercy is _____ someone instead of making them feel bad.
4. Mercy is making a _____ of being _____.

2 Talk about it

Answer these questions together as a family.

1. What is the definition for mercy?
2. Give an example of a time you showed mercy to someone. How about an example of a time you were shown mercy?
3. Finish the sentence, "If you learn mercy, you will _____."
4. How has God shown us His mercy?
5. Read [Colossians 3:13](#). Why is forgiveness a great way to show mercy? How does forgiving someone change our attitude toward that person?

3 Live it out

Memorize this week's Bible verse:

God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Matthew 5:7



NAME: _____

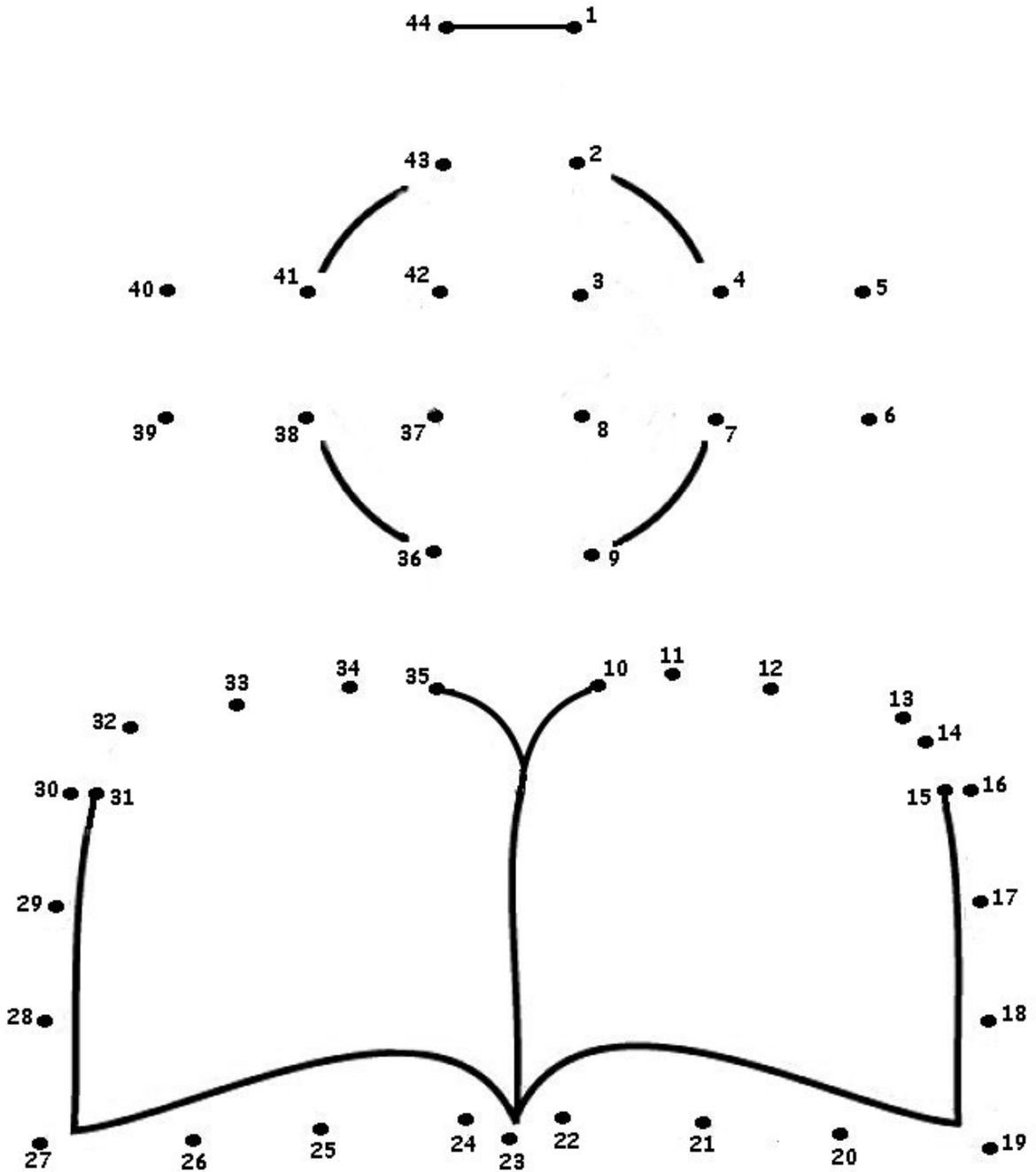
BIG IDEA:

If you can learn mercy, you will get mercy.

MEMORY VERSE:

Happy are those who are merciful
for they will be shown mercy.
Matthew 5:7

Instructions: connect the dots and color the picture.



IF

WILL

YOU

GET

CAN

MERCY

LEARN

MERCY

YOU