

Beatitudes Lesson Five: Blessed are those who are Merciful
(adapted from a lesson by Tara Lynch at ministry-to-children.com)

Props: Large “Get out of jail free” cards at each table.

Large Group

This is our fifth week in the Beatitudes. What does “Beatitude” mean? It means “blessed.” Who gave the Beatitudes? Jesus. Through the Beatitudes, Jesus shows us what life in God’s kingdom looks like. These paint a picture of a life lived for God, a life that God blesses.

Who can say the first four Beatitudes from memory? (Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven; Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted; Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth; Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for these shall be filled.)

The Beatitudes are “Be attitudes” from Jesus. These are attitudes that God desires to see in His children. We are working on embracing these attitudes in our lives.

[Pray]

1. Read Matthew 5:1-12.
2. *So what is the fifth Beatitude?* (Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.)
3. What is mercy? To show someone mercy is to treat them with undeserved kindness. Often mercy is associated with pardon – releasing someone from a debt they owe or a punishment they deserve. Does anyone play Monopoly? (Show “get out of jail free” card.) This guy is being shown mercy!
4. Have volunteer write “undeserved kindness” next to “mercy” on board.

Table Discussion

1. Read Titus 3:5. This verse talks about God saving us by his grace, through our faith in Jesus Christ. According to this, what is not the reason God saves people? (We are not saved because of righteous things we have done.)
2. What is the reason for our salvation? (God's mercy.)
3. God saves us, not because we deserve it, or because we have earned it, but because he loves us and chooses to forgive us, for Jesus' sake. How has God shown you mercy in your life?
4. Read Luke 6:32-36. What does Jesus tell us to do to our enemies (people who mistreat us)? (Love them, do good to them, lend to them generously).
5. Is this easy to do, or hard to do? Explain.
6. Have you ever wronged someone, and you were sorry and apologized, but they would not forgive you, but held onto a grudge? How did that feel?
7. In verse 36, who is our example of mercy? (our Heavenly Father)
8. How does remembering God's mercy toward you help you to be merciful toward others?
9. What are some practical ways we can show God's mercy to people who wrong us? (Ideas: Forgive them, pray for them, do something nice to them, choose not to gossip about them.)
10. Is there someone in your life that God wants you to show mercy to? What will you do for them?

Craft/Activity

MERCIFUL WILL BE SHOWN MERCY CRAFT

Walk in the way of Mercy Garden

You need

5 popsicle sticks per person

White and colored paper

Glue stick

Paper cup

Scissors

Markers or crayons

Beans

Directions

1. Using a marker or crayon, trace your foot on a piece of colored or white paper. Repeat this step 5 times (you should have 5 footprints total).
2. Cut out the footprints.
3. One each footprint, write one way that you can show mercy to others. (After writing the ideas, you may choose to draw on the remaining portion of your cut outs using markers and crayons.)
4. Glue a popsicle stick on the back of the heel portion of the footprint. Repeat this step until the footprints have a popsicle stick attached. (1 print to 1 popsicle stick).
5. Take the paper cup and draw a garden scene all the way around the outside of the cup.
6. Using the beans, fill your cup 1/3 way full.
7. Place your footprints in the beans, stick side down. You know have a mercy garden!

Concept: This is a reminder that we should walk in mercy and show mercy how God has shown us mercy.