

KICKRiCKulum The Beatitudes

Grades 1- 6

Lesson Six: An “Act” of Mercy Matthew 5:7

Blessed are the merciful: they shall obtain mercy.



Pivots – Use Power Point Slides to present to the class



Pivot Trait: Mercy – act of kindness and compassion toward another

Pivot Point: Show mercy and receive mercy



Pivot Verse: Blessed are the merciful; they shall obtain mercy. Matthew 5:7 NIV

Review KIDnabber objects from previous lessons.

KIDnabber: Material: PP slide, bills as found in the Rampin Up section.

Puppet interrupts at the conclusion of the reading of the Main Verse.

Puppet: Hi everyone...what are you talking about today?

Teacher: Hi Rick, we are talking about mercy. Do you know what that is?

Puppet: I sure do. I just had someone show me mercy last night!

Teacher: You did? Well could you share the story with us?

Puppet: Sure. I went into the pizza place to pick up two pizzas.

Teacher: Oh I love pizza. What happened then?

Puppet: Well, they asked if I needed help carrying the pizza out.

Teacher: That was nice...did you take the help?

Puppet: No, I wanted to do it myself. That was a mistake!

Teacher: Oh no, what happened?

Puppet: I tried to open the door. The pizzas fell out of my hands onto the floor. It was a mess!

Teacher: Oh Rick, did you have to pay for some new pizzas?

Puppet: That's the good part! The pizza guy said they would make me two pizzas for free.

Teacher: Wow! That's mercy! You said you didn't need help, they could have said it was your fault! They could have made you pay the price.

Puppet: I was so thankful. I am going to write them a letter and thank them! I can't wait until one day when I can show mercy too!

Teacher: Good idea. Well, we'll see you later!

Rampin' Up

Gather in advance several bills such as electric, phone, gas, cable TV, water; merchandise receipts, grocery receipts, and calculators, play money, pencils and paper.

Lay out bills on a table in front of the children. Say: Not many things in life are given to us free of charge. Most things we have to pay for. What are some things you have to pay for? How do you earn money to pay for them? Children share answers. Say: Your parents or guardians work to pay for things. Hold up bill or receipt as you talk about it. Here are some things they pay for just to keep your house livable. Here is the electric bill for lights; the gas bill for heat; phone bill for phone service or cable TV bill so that you can watch your favorite programs. Other things they pay for are groceries, water, clothing, house or car. Today you get a chance to pay the bills! Divide children in small groups placing younger children and older together. Pass out different bills to each group. Give each group a calculator, pencil, paper and play money. Say: You are going to write down the amount of each bill on your paper. Then you will use the calculator to add up how much you owe. Count out the amount of money you will need to pay.

Teacher, deliberately give a couple groups less money so that they are not able to meet the payment of the bills. *As children finish gather them again at the table. Allow each group to pay their bill. When it is discovered that one group cannot make a payment say: When there is not enough money to pay for what you owe, it is called **debt**. Sometimes when **debt** is not paid, a person has to return the item they bought and could not pay for. Sometimes, unpaid **debt** can land someone in jail. What should happen to these groups who cannot pay their bills? Allow children to offer suggestions. Write their responses on the board to be referred to later in the lesson launch. Observe children's responses for acts of mercy. Say: Before we decide let's look at the Bible and see what the Word of God would tell us to do.*

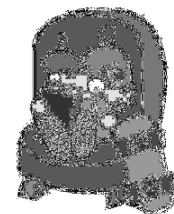
LESSON

Read: Matthew 18:21-35 as paraphrased below in the object

lesson

Materials needed:

- Play paper money
- 16 quarters or half dollars or make money with 16 pennies wrapped individually in foil
- Rope



Then Peter came up to Jesus and said, "Lord how many times may my brother sin against me, and I forgive him and let it go? As many as up to seven times? Peter knew he was to forgive sometimes. Now he wanted to know how many times.

Jesus answered him, "I tell you, not up to seven times, but seventy times seven. In Luke 17:4 Jesus said it this way: "And even if he sins against you seven times **in a day** and turns to you seven times **in a day** and says I repent (I am sorry) you should forgive him.



Teacher, note how Jesus reversed the deeds of the Old Testament. He is not teaching eye for eye, tooth for tooth as Lamech avenged seventy –seven fold. He is teaching forgiveness and mercy seventy times seven in a day using the same numerical equivalent.

Jesus continued saying: Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a human king who wished to settle accounts with his attendants.

Once again hold up the bills and say: Settling accounts is the same as getting called to the responsibility of a paying a debt. For awhile, bills will continue to come to someone’s house even if they are ignored and not paid. Maybe you have even borrowed money from your parents or brother or sister. Maybe at first they didn’t even remind you that you owed them money. But one day the one owing the money or **debtor** will have to face the one to whom the money is owed.

Now when the king began to settle the accounts or call people to the responsibility of their debt, one man was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.



Because he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, and his wife and his children and everything that he possessed, and payment to be made. So, the attendant fell on his knees, begging him, saying, “Have patience with me and I will pay you everything.” The master’s heart was moved with compassion, and he released him and forgave him of his debt. That means, he cancelled the debt and said told him, “You do not have to pay.” Can you imagine? Getting forgiven of a debt that was at least 10 million dollars and maybe up to 250 million dollars! *Hold up lots of play dollar bills.* Imagine how thankful you would be, how happy and how free from such a responsibility!

Do you know what happened? That same attendant went out and found one of his fellow attendants who owed him some money. This attendant owed 100 denarii. Denarii was a Roman silver coin worth 16 cents. *Show silver coins.* It was usually the amount given to someone for one day’s work. So this man was in debt about 16 dollars or 100 days work. What a difference from 10 million dollars! The Bible says that the man who was forgiven the huge debt caught up with the attendant, grabbed the attendant by the throat and said, “Pay what you owe!” This attendant fell down and begged him saying, “Give me time and I will pay what I owe.” But he was unwilling and had this man put in prison until he could pay what he owed.

Others saw what happened and this made them very upset. They went and told everything to the king who had forgiven the man of his many million-dollar debt. So the king called for this attendant. He said to him, “You wicked servant. I forgave you and cancelled your great debt because you asked me. You even begged me. Shouldn’t you have had the same **mercy** on the one who owed you? Shouldn’t you give kindness when you were given kindness, even when you didn’t deserve it? It made the king so angry that he sent for the jailers to come and take this man to prison until he could pay all that he owed. Jesus said, “This is how My heavenly Father will deal with everyone of you if you do not freely forgive your brother the things he has done to you.

Now, let’s return to our suggestions of what to do with the ones who could not pay the debt of their bills. *Call the children of these groups together and tie a rope around their bodies as a whole.* Say: Owing a debt is like being bound in something that we cannot get out of. After hearing the story of the unforgiving attendant, what do you think would be the best thing to do with these children? *Take suggestions and say:* Yes, let’s forgive their debt. *Release the children from the rope and set them free.*

Critical Point Say: When we are released from debt we are set free! Sometimes the debt is so great that we could never set ourselves free. Much like the millions of dollars that the attendant owed in our story. We need someone to step in and pay the debt for us. The Bible says that we are all debtors. What debt could we owe? *Allow answers.* Say: We are in debt to God because of the penalty of sin in our life. God says that the wages of sin is death. Unless we paid a price to get rid of sin we would surely die. But what can we give God to rid us of sin? Nothing we have could pay the price. So God sent His Only Son, Jesus Christ to die for us, taking our sin on Him that we would be set free from the bondage of sin. *Show rope again.* *Wrap it around a child or self.* Say: Without the blood of Jesus to cancel our debt from sin, to take our place, we would be bound forever and surely die. If we receive this undeserved forgiveness, in Jesus, we will live forever. Do you know what it was that caused God to do that for us? It was His mercy. Right

now let's show mercy and forgive anyone in our life who is indebted to us. **Pray with children to receive God's mercy and to receive the gift of forgiveness for sin in their life through Jesus.** Say: Now that we have received mercy our hearts should be willing to give mercy to others.



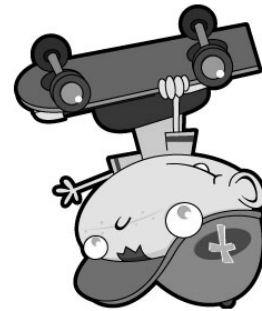
KICK RICK Grind

- Genesis 4:24 reads, "If Cain is avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech [will be avenged] seventy-seven fold." Psalm 78:38 says that God many a time, turned away His anger, and forgave iniquity because of compassion.
- One gold talent is equal to approximately \$25,000 making the debt \$250,000,000. A silver talent would value at approximately \$1,600 making the debt \$16,000,000. Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary Zondervan Publishing House. The Amplified Bible states probably \$10,000, 000. At either range, the debt is insurmountable reflecting our indebtedness to God for our sin.

Air Time

(Present questions for discussion)

- What is debt?
- Who was in debt to the king? How large was the debt?
- How did the king respond to the man who owed so much?
- How did this man respond to the one who owed him money?
- What did the king say to this man when he learned of what he did?
- What is mercy?
- Are mercy and forgiveness the same?
- How did Jesus answer Peter when Peter asked, "How many times should I forgive?"
- What did Jesus say the Father would do to those who do not freely forgive?
- What is the greatest debt that God forgave us of? How did He do that?
- Have you ever been shown mercy? Have you ever shown mercy?



PIVOT SKIT

Character Skit: Oily Al and Bottle O' Mercy

Materials needed: 1 bottle of White Out (liquid cover up) labeled "BOM", 3 copies of a real or created invoice or bill, 1 sharpened pencil with eraser.

Al: *(bursts in shouting)* Have mercy!

Teacher: *(taken off guard with the interruption)* What in the world? Oh, it's you Oily Al. Forgive me if I don't sound enthused with your arrival.

Al: I forgive you. Mercy me, that's what it's all about! That's what my new product is about! Perfect lead in, *(insert wrong teacher's name)*.

Teacher: My name is *(teacher corrects name)*. When are you going to get that right? Hmmm, let's see. Greasy Al?

Al: I know you didn't mean that. It's Oily, you just slipped up. Once again, I'll show you mercy! Why? Mercy Me, Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful..." and kids, 'Ol Al is full of mercy. Get it, mercy "full"? *(cracks up at himself)*

Teacher: Al, I should make you leave, but showing you mercy, what is, for lack of a better word, your product?

Al: Well, you can erase, blot out, remove, may I be so bold as to say, obliterate, all doubt about this product. This product is worth the wait. Spanning the globe, looking for unique products to help mankind be a doer, not just a hearer of the Word! I present to you Bottle O' Mercy! *(Pull out the bottle)*

Teacher: Oh boy, this is going to be good. For entertainment sake, please continue.

Al: Well kids, imagine this. You buy a video game using your parents' charge card. The bill arrives *(pull out one of the bills)* and your parents are not amused. Well, you quickly open your **Bottle O'Mercy** and "BOMS AWAY!" Get it? *(Hold out the Bottle Label to view)* **BOMS** away! *(Oily laughs hysterically.)* With one stroke of the patented **Stroke o' Mercy brush**, which is included at no extra charge, you wipe away the charges *(take the bill and apply the BOM)*. Mercy me, no trace of the charge! You have shown mercy to yourself and your parents. Everybody's happy!

Teacher: Oily, not so fast. First of all, the parents still want to know why their child used their card without permission. Second, the credit card company still wants paid.

Al: *(undaunted, continues)* Imagine how you can help your parents at the end of the month! *(Pull out the other bill)* What's this? How much? No money? Well, **BOMS** away! Blast the charge to smithereens *(apply BOM to the bill)*! Look, all your problems are solved. This product is **'DA BOMS!** *(laughs heartily)*

Teacher: All right, I think that is all we need to see. You have completely distorted our lesson on mercy. It isn't about helping yourself or helping your parents cheat on a bill. It's about showing love and forgiveness to those who maybe don't deserve it.

Al: Well, what's wrong with that? Sometimes we get so carried away with helping others that we neglect ourselves! Alright, I know what the problem is. You want more for your money! Well, Oily Al never disappoints! Today, and today only, I am going to include at the introductory **BOM** price of \$19.95, *(Pull out the pencil)* introducing, **ERASE-A-DEBT!** You can't find this anywhere but with Al!

Teacher: You have got to be kidding me! It's a pencil!

Al: This may look like just an ordinary pencil but *(take out the last bill)* you can either erase a debt or scratch the debt out with this unique leaded end. *(Erase and scratch out writing)*. See! It's unreadable! I'm telling you this is a product you can't make a mistake with! And even if you could, erase it!!! *(laughs hysterically)*

Teacher: Unique leaded end? Give me a break! Oily, you amaze me. All pencils have lead in them. This product is a complete farce. Wait a minute, I have an idea! How 'bout if we buy it and when the bill comes, we use **BOM** on it! We don't have to pay!

Al: Uh, well . . . uh, I uh, forgot to mention that my bills have a scientific hi tech coating on them. It is the only bill known to man that resists **BOM**.

Teacher: Ok, then we'll give **BOM** one more test. You say **BOM** blots out and completely gets rid of things you don't want?

Al: Exactly!

Teacher: Okay, give me that **BOM**. I'm going to pour it on you!

Al: Okay, well then, I believe it is time to move on (*hurriedly runs out the door*). See ya' soon!

Time to **THRASH**

1st to 3rd and 4th to 6th Activities

Mercy Never Ends

Children will discover the lengths of mercy.

Materials needed: poster sized paper, crayons, markers

Assign children to groups or pairs depending on class size. Tell the children that they will be drawing a picture to illustrate the verse of scripture they will be given.

Assign these verses all taken from Psalm 136. Assign only one verse per group or pair of children. Assign verse 5, verse 6, verse 7, verse 8, verse 9, verse 12, verse 13, verse 16, verse 25 and verse 26. Offer suggestions for drawings.

When drawings are finished say: I am going to read Psalm 136. When you hear the verse that describes the picture you drew then hold it up for all to see. Read the Psalm in its entirety. Say: Isn't it wonderful that God's mercy never ends.

Adapt this lesson for 4th to 6th graders by following the above directions but allowing them to read their assigned verse when cued by the teacher.

Pivot Verse Activity

Choose a Pivot Verse activity listed at the end of the Lesson Component page.

Pivot Verse: Blessed are the merciful: they shall obtain mercy. Matthew 5:7 NIV



Mercy Volley Ball

Children will experience mercy.

Materials needed: masking tape, balloons

Clear an area of the room to create a volleyball playing court. Place a strip of masking tape across the center of the court to represent the net. Have children group in pairs to designate a team. Blow up 3 balloons and label each one "Mercy". Choose one team to play first. Position one child on each side of the masking tape line.

Conduct a tournament of mercy volleyball. To begin, throw all 3 balloons into the air as close to the middle as possible. The child can use any part of their body to try and bat the balloons into the other child's area. The idea is that when you "volley mercy" over...it comes back to you! The object is to give volley more "mercy" than you receive. Allow volleying for about 2 minutes. At the end of 2 minutes yell, "mercy" and the play must stop. Count the number of balloons on each side. The child with the fewest balloons in their area moves on in the tournament.

1st to 3rd Activities 4th to 6th Activities

The Chase Is On

Children will get an opportunity to expend some energy while learning about goodness and mercy.

Materials needed: two name tags, one labeled mercy and one labeled goodness

Choose 2 children to wear the nametags. Tell the children that the Bible says in Psalm 23:6 that "Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life." Let the children labeled goodness and mercy follow the other children as they skip, walk, crawl or do other activities around the room. Take turns with other children, giving them an opportunity to be goodness and mercy.

Concentrate on Mercy

Children will become familiar with more scripture on mercy.

Materials needed: index cards

Create index cards numbered on one side from 1-20.

On the opposite side write the following verses on 2 cards each:

Lamentations 3:22-23, Proverbs 3:3, Col. 3: 12, Micah 6:8, Luke 6:36. Matt. 5:7, James 3:17, Proverbs 14:21, Proverbs 11:17, James 2:13.

Play a matching game either individually or in teams. Begin with all cards placed down with the numbered side up. Allow children to take turns flipping over 2 cards at a time. Unmatched cards are turned back over after an incorrect guess. If a match occurs, the team or child may look up that verse and read it out loud before proceeding. The team or individual with the most matched pairs wins the game.

Bring out KIDnabber object (bills from Rampin' Up) so children may associate with it one more time.



Mercy in Action

Materials needed: small Dixie cups partially filled with confetti

Say: Mercy is kindness undeserved. Mercy is also **active**. Mercy does not just feel sorry for someone; mercy **acts** to help someone. The king did not just feel sorry for the man who owed him millions of dollars he **acted** and forgave the man. If you saw someone without food, felt badly for him/her and so decided to buy him/her food, your mercy would be **active**. Read James 2:15 – 16.

Say: Listen to some examples of mercy. When you hear active mercy toss your confetti in the air.
Read as many of the scenarios as may best fit your class. Remember that each child will need confetti for each scenario read.

Genesis 45:1-5	Joseph and his brothers.
Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph and his brothers after their father's death.
Luke 15:18-24	The Prodigal Son
Luke 10: 33-35	Good Samaritan
Luke 8:43-48	Woman with the issue of blood
I Samuel 30: 9-12	David and the Egyptian

Conclude by saying that Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful: they will obtain mercy." When we have been given the mercy of God it should be our desire to show mercy too. Mercy will then come back to us.