

Department Level: Juniors

Unit 2: The Beatitudes (part two)

Lesson 1: Merciful and Blessed

I. Instructional Objectives:

1. The child will recite from memory the fifth Beatitude from memory with no more than two helps (Matthew 5:7).

2. The child will explain the fifth Beatitude.

3. The child will give a personal example of application of the fifth Beatitude.

II. Materials Needed:

A. Whiteboard

B. Dry-erase Marker

III. Opening Activities:

A. Jesus Loves Me

B. Surely Goodness and Mercy

C. I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord

IV. Memory Verse Activity:

A. Say the reference. Find the verse in the Bible and have the children turn to the passage themselves. Read the verse to the students then have the students read the verse with the teacher from their Bibles. Define the word merciful. Write the verse on a white/chalk board. Read the verse again. Explain the meaning of the verse, explaining how God showed mercy to mankind. Play the game Erase-a-Word, having the students in the class, fill-in the missing words. Read the verse in unison again. Apply the verse to the students' life personally. Say the verse one more time in unison.

V. Sequence of Activities:

-Matthew 18:23-35

A. Activation of Prior Knowledge:

Picture this. You make a mean joke about your older sister, and she gets offended but decides to forgive you. A couple hours later, you are with your friend and some other friends when they leave you out of a game. You get upset and leave in an angry fit. How should you have reacted to this slight amount of mistreatment? Was such a strong reaction the right response? Didn't your older sister just forgive you for the joke you made about her that was much meaner? Today, you will hear about the merciful master and how we can show mercy in forgiving others and being kind.

B. Instruction:

I. The first servant owes his master ten thousand talents.

A. A talent was a unit of a large amount of money.

B. The first servant by law was required to pay this debt or to spend time in prison if he didn't.

C. This servant begs for his master to forgive him.

II. The first servant is forgiven by his master even though he owes him a large sum of money.

A. This servant's master is merciful in that he shows kindness even when he doesn't deserve it.

B. The master does not make his servant pay the debt.

C. The servant was released from prison.

III. A man owes this same servant a smaller amount of money and is treated without mercy.

A. The man owes the same servant only one hundred pence.

B. This man is not forgiven by the servant that was forgiven previously.

C. The forgiven servant put the man that owed him money into prison.

D. This man begged for mercy from the one he owed money to.

IV. The unforgiving man is corrected.

A. People hear of this horrible story and tell the lord that forgave the man his debt.

B. He is told that what he did was wrong because he himself was forgiven.

C. Lesson Importance and Application:

As Christians, God has forgiven us all of our debt of sin that we owed. Because we have told lies, been unkind, or stolen things, we must be punished for our sins. The punishment for our sins is eternal punishment in hell, a painful place where we are eternally separated from God. There is good news in this though. Jesus Christ came and paid the penalty for our sins. He was merciful toward us and forgave us our entire sin penalty. The merciful master could be compared to Christ. We must be like Jesus in that we must forgive others when they wrong us like Christ did. If we don't, we are no better than the unmerciful servant.

D. Lesson Closure:

Question Time:

a. How much did the two servants owe?           -ten thousand talents; one hundred pence

b. What is the correct response when people wrong us?           -We need to forgive others as Christ forgave us our sins.

c. what does mercy mean?           -compassion, forgiveness, being kind when it is undeserved

E. Application Activity:

The children will be given three examples situations. They must decide if the person is being merciful or unmerciful.

R. Evaluation:

1. The child recited from memory the fifth Beatitude from memory with no more than two helps (Matthew 5:7).
2. The child explained the fifth Beatitude.
3. The child gave a personal example of application of the fifth Beatitude.

