

The Beatitudes

Huddle 6 - God blesses the merciful



SETTING THE ATMOSPHERE

As children arrive, collect the “In” slips and see which grade they are in for their huddle teams. Remember to check all slips to make sure children are to be in Up & Out this hour.

Team Time

Each team leader (student leader) should spend time getting a conversation started within the team to find out more about each child. Spend time today discussing the following questions up front...

Huddle Teams

- 1st & 2nd grade girls
- 1st & 2nd grade boys
- 3rd & 4th grade girls
- 3rd & 4th grade boys

- Is there anything new happening in your life?
- Can you think of anything that makes you feel that you are blessed?
- Are you feeling thankful for anything in particular?
- Were you really sad about anything or anyone this week?
- Did you think about hunger and thirst differently this week? (Did you hunger and thirst for Jesus to be in your heart and in your life?)

Opening Prayer

Leader prays for the group.

LESSON HUDDLE

Let's all come over together and get started this morning. Good morning, Up & Out! Where we look up (pause for the group to respond) **TO GOD** and look out (Pause) **TO OTHERS**.

Can you believe that this is our sixth week in the **Beatitudes**? Let's see how much you've been listening and remembering. I'm going to start saying each **Beatitude** then when I pause you say the correct word to complete the verse. Here's an example. I will say something you should know with one of the other leaders and they will complete it. Say, "The **Beatitudes** tell us what our _____ should Be". (The other leader should say, "Attitudes") The **Beatitudes** tell us what our Attitudes should Be. Does everyone understand? Let's begin.

- ◆ God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for _____ (Him), for the kingdom of _____ (heaven) is theirs.
- ◆ God blesses those who mourn, for they will be _____ (comforted).
- ◆ God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole _____ (earth).
- ◆ God blesses those who hunger and thirst for _____ (justice), for they will be _____

(satisfied).

The fifth **Beatitude** that we will learn today is verse 7 of Matthew 5.

⁷ God *blesse*s those who are the *merciful*, for they will be shown *mercy*.

Today we are going to ask three questions: (Write these questions on the dry erase board.) **Where does *mercy* come from? How can I become *merciful*? What is *mercy*?**

Before we start to answer these questions, I want us to look up and read a bible verse, Micah 6:8. Open your bibles to the book of Micah in the Old Testament then find chapter 6 and verse 8 and we'll read it together. (Read, or have a child read, Micah 6:8 NLT)

⁸No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love *mercy*, and to walk humbly with your God.

This is the way God wants us to live. This verse sums up what it means to live righteously before God. *Mercy* is one of three things listed, so it means being *merciful* is very important! What comes to mind when you hear the word *mercy*? (Allow a few children to answer.) When I hear the word *mercy*, I imagine a criminal on his knees, begging a judge to "please have *mercy* on me!" Can you picture what I'm talking about? The criminal, who has done wrong, is asking for *mercy* from a judge, who has the power to send the criminal to jail or set him free.

Based off of this picture, where does *mercy* come from? (Allow children to answer.) *Mercy* comes from someone who is in charge, or someone who has some sort of influence in your life. In this case, *mercy* could come from the judge if he chooses to let the criminal off easy. In our case, where does the *mercy* come from? Of course, the greatest *mercy* we could ever get would come from God. Let's have a sword drill to show us this. Grab your bibles and hold them over your head. When I say go, turn to Titus 3:5. Ready! Set! Go! (Have one of the children read Titus 3:5 NLT). ⁵"he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his *mercy*. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit." Did you notice one of our questions being answered in this verse? **Where does *mercy* come from? *Mercy* comes from God.** (Write "free gift from God" on the board under the question "Where does *mercy* come from?") Any *mercy* we have, to give, we get from the Lord. This verse shows us that there is nothing we can do to earn *mercy*. God gives it to us freely. We get mercy when we are humble before God and when we want to be forgiven of our sins. Mercy is not something we can receive just by being good or going to church or saying the right things.

Think about it like this...If you are outside playing on a hot summer day, you will probably get pretty thirsty. Right? Your mom knows it's hot outside and that you're going to be thirsty but she isn't going to chase you down, sit on you and force you to drink water. She will offer you a drink, but she will not force you to drink the water even though she knows it's what you really need. She also isn't going to make you beg for water or make you do one hundred push-ups before giving you a drink. All you have to do is ask, and your mom will give you the water you need.

You only get what you need though. If you ask for remote controlled cars when you need food, you won't get anything. God's mercy is similar. He knows we really need His mercy to live healthy, happy and full lives, but He will never force His mercy on us. He also does not make us beg or work for mercy. All we have to do is ask Him for it.

We get God's mercy when we ask for it. We ask for mercy after we realize we need it, when we realize we are sinners. Once we become humble, are saddened by our sins, and hunger for a just and right life with God we become merciful. So now we have answered our second question: **"How can I become merciful?"** We become merciful when we realize we are sinners, become humble and ask Him to be merciful to us. (Write "humble and ask for mercy" on the board under or beside the question "How can I become merciful?)

Our last question is, **"What is mercy?"** Mercy is best explained through a story from the bible. Let's talk about a story most of you are familiar with: The Good Samaritan. We can find this story that Jesus told in Luke 10:25-37. Instead of reading it, let's see if we can remember the story on our own.

Someone who knew the law of God really well (a lawyer) once asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus asked him what the law had to say. The lawyer correctly answered with the greatest commandment. Who remembers what that is? (Allow children to answer.) "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" The lawyer wanted to make excuses for not following this commandment perfectly, so he asked Jesus who his neighbor was. Jesus answered with the story of the Good Samaritan. Do you remember how the story starts? (Pause for answers) With a guy (a Jewish man) walking along the road, getting robbed, and beat half to death. Who walked by this beaten man, lying on the ground, first? (Pause for answers.) Right, a priest, who was like the pastor of that time. He ignored the poor guy. Who walked by next? (Pause for answers.) Right, a Levite, who was like a worship leader of that time. He totally ignored the injured man too. They weren't just ignoring him, they were even crossing the road to get far away from him. Who came by next? (Pause for answers.) A Samaritan. Samaritans were the worst enemies to the Jews back then. They got along about as well as cats and water, fire and gasoline, pickles and ice cream, Gamecocks and Tigers. A Samaritan was the last person you would expect to help a Jew. But this guy went above and beyond to do everything he could to help take care of the hurt Jew. After telling this story, Jesus asked the lawyer who he thought was a neighbor to the man who was robbed. The law expert said, "The one who had mercy on him."

The Samaritan showed mercy. He chose to give up his own time and resources to take care of the Jewish man, even though he would have been considered his enemy in that time period. Being merciful means showing compassion and forgiveness even when it is not deserved. It is showing love and kindness to someone who is not treating us very nicely. (Write "forgiveness, instead of punishment" on the board next to **"What is mercy?"**) That is what mercy is. God sent his son to die for our sins when he could have just left us in our sins, destined to spend all of forever in hell. Instead, he chose to show mercy and kindness in spite of our disobedience to him. Jesus died for us, even though we weren't deserving of His sacrifice. After trusting in Him, He is merciful to withhold the punishment we so rightly deserve for our sin against Him. God shows us mercy, so let's go into the world and show mercy, too.

(End by adding the “merciful” bee to the “shown mercy” part of the hive on the **BEE ATTITUDES** poster.)

End in prayer. Jesus, thank you for showing us mercy. Please help us be merciful to others. Help us show mercy to others by not judging them, but instead, loving and encouraging them.

ACTIVITY

Game: Mercy Tag

- Clear a large space in your room or take the kids outside.
- Mark off the boundaries of this game of tag.
- You have two people who are “it” in this timed game of tag.
 - One is “Mean” and
 - One is “Mercy.”
- It may help to have Mean wear a hat, scarf or shirt of one color and Mercy wear another color. (Something to help them stand out.)
- When you say go, everyone starts running around like crazy within the boundaries of the game.
- If Mean tags you, you must freeze.
- Mercy will come and unfreeze you.
- It is important that you keep moving unless you are tagged, so Mercy doesn’t try to unfreeze you when you are just standing around for no reason!
- Play continues for two minutes. See who came out on top, Mercy or Mean.
- How many kids were frozen by Meanness? How many were set free by Mercy?
- Choose new “its” and continue to play for as long as you have time.
- If too many people are getting tagged and staying frozen, have two kids be Mercy. If Mercy is unfreezing kids too fast, have two people be Mean. If you would like, have the kids pretend to be bees. Mean stings and Mercy heals.