



# Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Dr., Marysville, OH, 43040

## Mercy ME!

**Memory Verse:** "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Matthew 5:7

**Lesson Overview:** This lesson is designed to teach children what God's mercy is like, and how to have their own mercy toward others. They will discover why God has mercy on Christians, and sometimes non-Christians alike. God had so much compassion for us, that he sent his Son to die on a cross to forgive a debt we could not pay.

**Requirements for the lesson:**

- Two to four folding chairs

**Object Lessons and Lead-in to the Lesson:**

**"WOW! That Hurts!"** A takeoff of "The unmerciful servant." Arrange your noisy chairs just outside of the classroom area so that the students will be able to hear them when it is time. Begin your object lesson with a debtor and someone very anxious to collect on the debt. Just like the parable, have the debtor as for mercy--time to pay the debt. The collector will have mercy of the debtor, and waive the payment in full. The collector will then leave. Next, the debtor will begin to tell the class how thankful that his or her debt is now gone. But there is a problem. The debtor needs some money. Have someone else enter that owes the debtor some money. This time, the debtor will not be so willing to forgive this person's debt. In fact, so unwilling, that debtor #1 takes debtor #2 out through the door--rather rudely--and proceeds to beat it out of him! This is where your chairs come in. Both debtors should begin to make as much noise as possible by clanking the chairs together. They may even stop and then begin the noise again.

Next, debtor #1 should return to the room, brushing his or her hands, or maybe counting some money. Lastly, have the collector come it to the room to see what all of the commotion is about, only to catch debtor #1 in the act. The collector should go on about how he or she had mercy on debtor #1, and how wicked debtor #1 is for not showing mercy in the same way. Conclude by having the collector escort debtor #1--rather rudely--out into the hall, where both should begin to make lots of noise again. At this point, begin the lesson by reviewing the parable of the unmerciful servant (Matthew 18:21ff).

## Lesson:

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: *“WOW! That Hurts!”*

READ: Matthew 18:21-35

### 1. What Is Mercy?

People are so funny. Actually, that’s not the right word. Sometimes we are very hard to understand. In this story called a parable, we can see one of these strange people.

**QUESTION:** Which person in the story seemed “strange” to you? *(The unmerciful servant, but some may say it is the lord in the story)*

The lord in our story forgave the servant of a debt that he owed him. Sometimes people do think it is strange when someone tells another that they do not have to pay back what they owe them. But the servant was forgiven the debt, and we would think that he would be willing to forgive a much smaller debt that someone owed him.

**QUESTION:** What did the servant do instead? *(He was greedy, and not only didn’t forgive the other man’s debt, but was mean to him.)*

This greedy, wicked man didn’t even ask for the money. He began to choke him first, then told him to pay up.

**QUESTION:** What did the wicked servant do when this didn’t work? *(He had the other man thrown into prison.)*

Wow! Imagine that you had been the lord that forgave him, and then you found out what he did.

**QUESTION:** What would you have done? *Allow the children to respond. Most likely, they will agree with that which the lord did in the parable.)*

As we can see, things were not going well in this parable.

**QUESTION:** What do you think should have happened that could have changed everything? *(The servant should have been grateful and forgave the other man’s debt.)*  
In this very interesting story, there is an example of something we call “mercy.”

a. What Does Mercy Look Like?

**QUESTION:** Who can tell us what mercy is? *(To be kind to someone by helping them—even when they don't deserve it.)*

**QUESTION:** If you were to “show” mercy to someone, then what would that look like?

- a. Not making someone pay what they owe
- b. Forgiving someone when you don't have to--they got it coming
- c. When you forgive a person that won't forgive you
- d. Forgiving a debt you know someone can't pay

b. Our Debt To God

That's the way God looks at us. He knows that there is no way that we can ever pay him back for all of the sin in our lives. The price is just too high. God forgives our sin because He wants to do it. But sin is so costly, that the price had to be paid by someone.

**QUESTION:** Who paid for the cost of your sin? *(Jesus!)*

We can never forget that. Jesus died an awful, painful death on the cross just so we could have our sin paid for, because that's the penalty for sin—death. Sin can't be paid for any other way.

READ: Romans 6:23

Someone in the class read this scripture, and then tell us what it means.

c. Paying God For Our Sin

So Jesus paid your sin-debt that you could not pay (2 Corinthians 5:21). Still, that doesn't mean that our sin is just “paid for”. There is something that we have to do in order to have our sin-debt paid. The answer is in our story about the unmerciful servant.

**QUESTION:** What did the unmerciful servant have to do in order to get his debt forgiven? *(He knew that he had to ask for mercy and forgiveness from the lord in the story.)*

Everyone who wants his sin debt forgiven has to do the same thing. We have to ask God for forgiveness, and we do that by telling Him that we are sinners. We have to ask for His mercy by saying that we know Jesus paid the price

for our sins when He died on the cross for us—each one of us. That way we won't be thrown into prison!

**QUESTION:** What prison do you think that would be?  
*(Hell!)*

That's one prison that we surely do not want to have to go to. We must remember that once you end up in that prison, we will never get out. You're stuck there forever!

**QUESTION:** When is it too late to get out of Hell? *(Once we've died and are stuck there.)*

No one wants to go there, but we never know when we will die. That's why it's important to allow Jesus to come into our hearts today—right now.

## 2. God's Mercy

God's mercy is very special. He allowed Jesus—His only Son—to die on a cross so your sins could be paid for. No one else could do that. Jesus is so special that none of us can have our sins forgiven by anyone else dying for them. It had to be Jesus. That's why God says that He won't forgive us if we don't believe that Jesus died for our sins.

### a. Being Grateful

God just doesn't have mercy on just anyone. Some people think that if they just say that they believe in Jesus that God has to save them from their sins. People like these forget that God is the one who made them, and that He knows better.

Your parents pay for something called "insurance". They pay for it on their car, house, and other things that are valuable that they don't want to lose. If their car caught on fire and burned up, then the insurance company would pay them for it. Some people think of asking God to forgive their sins like buying insurance against going to hell. God doesn't fall for that old trick. Only people who will truly believe and live for Jesus will have their sin-debts forgiven.

b. Hard Hearts

Sometimes God actually allows people's hearts to get hard and bitter.

**QUESTION:** Why do you think that He would do that? *(So they can understand that they can't help themselves, and that they really need God's forgiveness. Then they can be thankful.)*

God hardening someone's heart is kind of like stepping in a cow pie. We don't mind being around one when it's just the smell that we have to put up with. However, when we step in it, we can't wait to get away from it. We may not mind living in sin much until God allows us to suffer for our mistakes. It's like being stuck with a debt we cannot pay.

3. God Gives Mercy

**QUESTION:** Why would someone so important as God bother to pour His mercy out on a bunch of sinful people? *(Allow the children to respond)*

Let's take a look and see how we did with our answers.

a. He Loves Us

The Bible tells us that He just plain loves us. God would have sent Jesus to die on the cross if only one person in the world had sinned. Of course we know that is not true—we all have sinned and come up short of God's glory.

b. He Wants Our Fellowship

Believe it or not, God likes having us around. After all, God did create us, and He had each and every one of us in mind when He started all of time.

c. Because He Can

Here's a cool fact: God has mercy on us just because He can—He's God. He can do whatever He wants.

**QUESTION:** Can you do whatever you want? *(NO!)*

Of course not. If we don't do what our parents tell us, then we get punished or grounded. If we break the law, then we could go to jail. But God is the only god—there are no others. That means He gets to do what He wants. Aren't we glad that He's a Good God!

d. To Teach You

God has mercy on us to show us how to have mercy on others. How else will we learn? Your parents and teachers show you how to do things—so does God. That’s the lesson that the unmerciful servant should have learned. He must not have been paying attention to his teacher!

**QUESTION:** What do you think the lord in the story would have done if he found out that the servant had forgiven the other man’s debt? (*Been proud of him, or rewarded him even more. He would have “blessed” him.*)

4. What’s Important To God

God wants us to learn something very important today. It is something that is important to Him. He wants us to learn to be merciful to others.

**QUESTION:** How do you think God would act towards us if we are not merciful towards others? (*He will not be merciful to us.*)

God is very clear to us in the Bible about this. He says that if we do not forgive, then He will not forgive us. If we are not merciful to others, then we can expect Him not to be merciful to us.

*(Pass out the memory verse)*

**QUESTION:** What does this verse mean to us? (*If we are merciful, then others—including God—will be merciful to us.*)

God wants us to act like He acts and think like He thinks. That’s why He sent His Holy Spirit to be on the earth today—to help us do just that. He wants us to forgive as He forgives, and to have mercy as He has mercy.

5. Close

God wants to have mercy on each one of us today—right now. (*Have everyone bow their heads.*) Maybe you have never asked God to have mercy for your sins. Now is the best time to do that! If you have never told God that you believe in His Son Jesus, and that He died on a cross for your sins, then perhaps you would like to do that now.

*(Ask them to put a hand in the air if they would like to do that. If you get a response, then lead them all in the Sinner’s Prayer.)*

Perhaps you just have a problem being merciful to others the way God has been merciful to you. If you want God to forgive you and help you to do better, then put your hand up so we can all pray for you too. (*Pray*)

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