



Jesus Teaches: Showing Mercy

Lesson Aim: To know we are blessed when we show mercy by forgiving others.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Serves

THE WORD

Bible Story: Matthew 5:1-2, 7

What He has done: Jesus taught the crowd to forgive (show mercy).

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Forgive everyone."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?" Ephesians 3:18

"His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5

Unit 2: The King Who Serves			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
7	Jesus Teaches: Showing Mercy, Matthew 5:1-2, 7	Jesus taught the crowd to forgive (show mercy).	To know we are blessed when we show mercy by forgiving others.
8	Jesus and Nicodemus, John 3:1-5, 16	Jesus taught Nicodemus about salvation.	To know God loves the world.
9	Jesus and the Woman at the Well, John 4:7, 25-26, 28-30, 42	Jesus spoke to the woman at the well.	To tell others about Jesus.
10	Jesus with Mary and Martha, Luke 10:38-42	Jesus encouraged Martha to spend time with Him.	To learn how to spend time with Jesus.
11	Jesus and Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10	Jesus came to seek Zacchaeus.	To know Jesus came for you.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Hebrews 4:16. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the way You draw us to You and teach us. Fill us with Your Spirit that we might teach the children. Amen."

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a heart above the earth
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Forgive everyone."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "How Wide?" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Everyone Who Calls" "Guide Me" "His One and Only Son" "I Will Listen to the Lord" "It's Praise Time!" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Oh, How I Love Jesus" "Jesus Loves the Little Children" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Cedarмонт Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 2, Lesson 7
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Matthew 5:1-2, 7	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Matthew 5:7 Visual: Heart-shaped pillow or toy
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Big Love – Big Hug	Colorful, sturdy, standard-size paper, standard-size envelopes, yarn, tape, crayons or markers, optional: heart stickers
		Game: Forgive Everyone	Heart-shaped pillow or toy
		Game: Pat, Pat, Hug	None
		Snack: Forgiving Hearts	Heart-shaped cookies or snack
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 2, Lesson 7 Color This Story: "Jesus Teaches About Mercy"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Matthew 5:1-2, 7	None
	Up to 10	Game: Circle of Love	None
	Up to 10	Game: How Big is Jesus' Love?	One large sheet, cloth, or tarp
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about how God loves the world

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Forgive everyone

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a heart above the earth. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a heart help you remember Jesus wants us to forgive everyone. Today's Whisper Verse is "Forgive everyone."** Teach Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Forgive everyone."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| "Forgive" | In a downward, sweeping motion, the left hand brushes across the upturned palm of the right hand. |
| "everyone." | (Each + one) Right hand's "A" handshape (closed hand) moves down left hand's "A" handshape. Then raise right index finger. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Forgive everyone," Luke 11:4. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



Jesus as the King who serves

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.

It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the King who serves which means He gives us what we need. In today's story, Jesus knew the crowd needed to learn about God. So He sat down on a mountainside and taught them. He taught them about showing mercy. Let's say the word "mercy" together. All say "mercy." To show mercy means to forgive. That is our Whisper Verse today! Review Whisper Verse together: "Forgive everyone." Include sign language.



To forgive is to no longer be angry with someone for the wrong thing he or she did. Jesus wants us to forgive everyone the way He forgives us. He forgives us because He loves us. His love is so wide and long and high and deep that He will forgive us no matter what we have done!

How wide can you spread your arms? (All spread arms.)

How long can you stretch your arms in front of you? (All reach arms forward.)

How high can you reach? (All reach high.)

How deep can you bend? (All squat down low.)

Let's do those motions as we sing our new Bible Memory Verse Song. Sing: "How Wide?"

We can show Jesus we love Him when we pray, sing and give our offering. Let's do that now. Play: "Oh, How I Love Jesus" as background music while collecting offering.



Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello know what it means to show mercy. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 2, Lesson 7.



Look around and see everyone here whom God loves and forgives. He loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us. Sing: "His One and Only Son." **When you love Jesus, He forgives you, no matter what you have done. He forgives everyone who loves Him. Jesus loves everyone!** Sing: "Jesus Loves the Little Children."



Blessed are those who show mercy

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned Jesus went up on the mountain where his face shone brightly and God's voice spoke from a cloud. Today, we will learn about a time when Jesus went up on a different mountain and taught a crowd of people about blessings from God. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Matthew 5:1.

WATCH THE WORD: MATTHEW 5:1-2, 7

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, hold a heart-shaped pillow or toy. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or a related picture.

- Jesus went up on the mountainside,
- And He sat right down.
- This is what He taught the crowd,
- That gathered all around.

- "Blessed are those who show mercy,
- For God's mercy they will see."
- When you show mercy that means you forgive.
- Blessed means happy you'll be!

- When you forgive everyone,
- In all you say and do,
- You'll be happy because you'll see
- God show the same to you!

What does Jesus want us to do about those who do wrong against us? (Forgive everyone.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Forgive everyone." Include sign language or hand motions.



Jesus taught a special word that means forgiveness. What was it? (Mercy.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Matthew 5:7 from the teacher's Bible. To show mercy means to forgive. We are blessed when we forgive; God shows His forgiveness to us!



Blessings for forgiving

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: BIG LOVE - BIG HUG

Purpose: To challenge children to show the love of Christ through kindness and forgiveness.

Supplies: Colorful, sturdy, standard-size paper, standard-size envelopes, yarn, tape, crayons or markers, optional: heart stickers

Prepare: Cut a piece of colorful paper in two. On one half write:

Stretch my hands wide to show Jesus' love.

Wrap my arms around you to feel my hug!

Cut two child-size handprints from the other half piece of colorful paper. Optional: For larger groups, teachers may wish to cut 36" lengths of yarn before class. Smaller groups may want to trace and cut out each child's handprints as they arrive.

Directions:

1. Child uses crayons, markers, stickers or craft decorations to decorate the envelope.
2. Teacher assists child in initialing his or her pair of handprints.
3. Child stretches his or her arms as wide as possible. Teacher measures and cuts a piece of yarn to match the distance from fingertip to fingertip of the child's outstretched arms.
4. Attach a handprint to each end of the yarn with tape.
5. Child places the pair of handprints connected with yarn and the note into the envelope.
6. If time allows, children may decorate the note before placing it in the envelope.

Craft Discussion:

- **Let's see how far apart you can spread your arms.** Children stretch their arms wide. **The love of Jesus is even bigger than that!**
- **When you forgive others, you show them how big Jesus' love is. Give the envelope to someone you know. Spread the hands apart to show them how big and wide the love of Jesus is. Then wrap the hands around them like a great big hug!**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: FORGIVE EVERYONE

Purpose: Children will be affirmed as they talk about a time when they forgave someone.

Supplies: Heart-shaped pillow or toy

Jesus sat down on the mountainside and taught the crowd to show mercy, which means to forgive. To forgive is to no longer be angry with someone for the wrong thing he or she did to you. Jesus said when we forgive, we are happy because we see God's forgiveness.

Directions:

1. Children sit on the floor in a circle.
2. Give the heart to one of the children.
3. The child hugs it and shares a time when he or she forgave someone.
4. Remaining children say the Whisper Verse: **"Forgive everyone."** Include sign language or motions.
5. The child passes the heart to the next child.
6. Continue playing until all children have had a turn.

GAME: PAT, PAT, HUG

Purpose: In this version of the traditional game of "Duck, Duck, Goose," children enjoy two ways of showing their forgiveness.

Supplies: None

What does it mean to forgive someone? (Children respond.) **To forgive is to no longer be angry with someone for the wrong thing he or she did to you. What are some ways we can show others we forgive them?** (Give a hug, pat on the back, say "I forgive you," give a gift, etc.) **In this game, we are going to practice two fun ways of showing forgiveness.**

Directions:

1. Seat all children in a circle.
2. Choose a child to be the "Forgiver."
3. The "Forgiver" walks around the circle, gently patting each child on the shoulder and saying "pat."
4. When the "Forgiver" says "hug," he or she then runs around the circle to meet the child just patted.
5. The child who was just touched and the "Forgiver" run in *opposite directions* around the circle.
6. When the two running children meet, they give each other a big hug.
7. As the runners rejoin the seated children, all children say the Whisper Verse, **"Forgive everyone."** Include sign language or motions.
8. Choose the next "Forgiver" and play until each child has had a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: FORGIVING HEARTS

Purpose: Children enjoy a heart-shaped snack as they discuss forgiving everyone.

Snack Suggestion: Heart-shaped cookies or snack

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "Forgive everyone."
 - **When we are sorry for hurting someone, what do we say to that person?** ("I am sorry. Please forgive me.") **What do we say to Jesus?** ("I am sorry. Please forgive me.")
 - **What kinds of things have you done that you need to ask God's forgiveness?** (Children respond.) **Let's all ask Jesus together to forgive us for these wrongdoings.** All repeat prayer: "Jesus, I'm sorry. Please forgive me. Thank You. Amen."
 - **Tell me one way you can show someone you forgive them.** (Say "I forgive you," hug, pat, smile, give a gift, etc.)
 - **Jesus always forgives us when we are truly sorry. He does this because He loves us all very much.**



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Big Love - Big Hug" craft. Give it to someone you know to show them how big and wide God's love is. Show them how to wrap themselves in your big hug!

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Tell them Jesus taught us to show mercy, which means to forgive.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Jesus teaches about mercy." Discuss the Bible Story and play Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse song "How Wide?" as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: MATTHEW 5:1-2, 7

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Jesus went up on the mountainside,** (Walk in place.)
- **And He sat right down.** (Sit down.)
- **This is what He taught the crowd,** (Point finger as if teaching.)
- **That gathered all around.** (Point to everyone in the room.)

- **“Blessed are those who show mercy,** (Left hand brushes off right palm.)
- **For God’s mercy they will see.”** (Point to heaven.)
- **When you show mercy that means you forgive.** (Left hand brushes off right palm.)
- **Blessed means happy you’ll be!** (Smile and clap.)

- **When you forgive everyone,** (Whisper Verse sign language or motions.)
- **In all you say and do,** (Open arms wide.)
- **You’ll be happy because you’ll see** (Smile and point to eyes.)
- **God show the same to you!** (Point to heaven.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?” Ephesians 3:18

“His love endures forever.” Psalm 100:5

GAME: CIRCLE OF LOVE

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Can you show me how big Jesus’ love is? Encourage children to stretch their arms wide to show the size of Jesus’ love. **Let’s learn our Bible Memory Verse. Our verse tells us how big Jesus’ love is!**

Directions:

1. Form a circle and hold hands.
2. Say the Bible Memory Verse together while doing the corresponding actions:

“How wide and long	Stretch circle outward.
and high	Hold each other’s hands high to sky.
and deep	Hold each other’s hands low to ground.
is the love of Christ.”	Let go of hands and hug arms over chest.
“His love endures forever.”	Hold hands again and walk in a circle.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: HOW BIG IS JESUS' LOVE?

Purpose: Children move a sheet to discover the meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: One large sheet, cloth, or tarp

Jesus loves all children. That means He loves you! Let's see how big Jesus' love is.

Directions:

1. Spread the sheet on the floor in the center of the room.
2. Children stand in a square around the sheet.
3. Children pick up the sheet by the edges.
4. **Pull on the sheet until it is tight. See how wide and long the sheet is? Jesus' love for you is even wider and longer!**
5. **Take one giant step into the square. Hold the sheet as high as you can reach. See how high the sheet is? Jesus' love for you is even higher!**
6. **Now let's lower the sheet to the ground. See how low the sheet is? Jesus' love for you is even deeper!**
7. **Move into the middle and squeeze together tight; as close as you can. Jesus will be close to you forever. He will love you forever!**



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about forgiving others.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 2, Lesson 7: Jesus Teaches: Showing Mercy

PONDER! Read Matthew 5:1-2, 7 with your family. On the mountainside, Jesus taught that those who show mercy will be shown mercy by God. To show mercy means to forgive. We are blessed and happy when we forgive everyone. When have you been blessed by forgiving someone?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for forgiving us. Please help us to forgive everyone. Amen."

PLAY! Sit down with friends or family on a small hill outdoors or on sturdy boxes. Pretend you are sitting on a mountainside, as Jesus did, teaching about showing mercy. Say our Whisper Verse: "Forgive everyone." Show your family the Whisper Verse sign language or hand motions. Teach them that to show mercy means to forgive. Blessed are those who show mercy!

Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse:

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ?" Ephesians 3:18
"His love endures forever." Psalm 100:5