



Bible Story: Jesus Shows Mercy (Matthew 20:29-34)

Today's Takeaway: I should be merciful to others even when they don't deserve it.

Series Verse: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." (James 1:2-3 NIV)

Weekly Verse: "God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy." (Matthew 5:7 NLT)

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What does it mean to be blessed? (Jesus loves you and invites you to be His friend forever.)
- 2. What does merciful mean? (Using your power or ability to help, forgive or show kindness to others even when they don't deserve it)
- 3. How does God show us mercy? (We deserve punishment for the bad things we do, but He sent Jesus to take our punishment by dying on the cross. He forgives us. He is kind to us...He never leaves us, He invites us to be His friends forever, etc.)
- 4. How can we show mercy to others? (Not hitting a sibling back even though they hit you, letting a friend play with your toy even though they didn't share their toys with you, forgiving your Mom for accidentally stepping on your toe, giving money to your church to be used for people in need, etc.)

Activity Ideas:

1. Freeze Dance

What You Need:

o Music

What You Do:

- $\circ~$ Have your kids gather where they can hear the music.
- While the music plays, have them dance around.
- When the music stops, have them freeze and hold their position until you start the music again.
- \circ While they are frozen have them answer a question about God.
- Play as long as time and interest allows.
- Talk to the kids about how much God loves us, how He is merciful and how He wants us to show mercy to others.

Possible Questions:

Name something that God made.

Name someone that God loves.

Who shows us mercy by forgiving our sins? (God/ Jesus)

Who wants to be your friend forever? (God/ Jesus)

Who does God show mercy to? (Everyone)

Name someone you can show mercy to this week?

Etc.

2. Verse Art

What You Need:

o Paper/ paper plate/ cardstock; pencil/ marker/ pen; and crayons/ markers/ paint

What You Do:

- Write today's Bible verse ("God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Matthew 5:7) on a piece of paper or whatever you choose to write it on.
- Have your child color or paint the paper however she or he would like.
- Remind them what their artwork says, and hang it up somewhere you all will see it often this week OR have them mail it to someone as an act of kindness.

Family Prayer:

Take a few minutes to pray as a family to wrap up your time together.