

# Blessed are the Merciful

## Jesus and the Sinful Women

**Bible Reference:** Matthew 5:1-3, Beatitudes, John 8:1-11, Matthew 7:1

### Teaching Concept:

Through Jesus' example children learn what it means to be merciful, and how they can show mercy.

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### 1. Paint a Rock as a reminder to be Merciful Part 1

#### What you will need:

Paper Plates, Colored Paper, Paint, Markers, Paint Brushes, and Glue

#### What to do:

1. Before class print out the Bible Verse Paper Plate Pattern onto colorful paper. This craft will be done in two parts.
  2. In class have your children paint the river rocks. Teach the lesson while you wait for the paint to dry.
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## The Lesson

This series of lessons uses a bee puppet to introduce each learning concept. You will also need a sheet of paper with the words "I will not hit when I am mad" written over and over on the paper, and a pencil. Tape the sheet and pencil to the bee's hands.



### The Skit

Little Bee enters with a piece of paper and pencil in her hand. The words "I will not hit when I am mad" is written on the paper over and over.

**Teacher:** How are you today Little Bee?

**Little Bee:** (Shaking her arm.) Well, my arm is getting very tired.

**Teacher:** Little Bee, why is your arm getting tired?

**Little Bee:** (Shows the teacher the paper she has been writing.) My mommy told me I have to write, "I WILL NOT HIT WHEN I AM MAD," one hundred times on this here piece of paper before I can play with my friend again.

**Teacher:** Wow that is a lot of writing. Why did you hit your friend? Hitting is not something you should do to a friend.

**Little Bee:** Because he made me mad.

**Teacher:** What did he do to make you mad?

**Little Bee:** He lied to me. I asked him to come over and play, but he said he couldn't because he had to do his chores, and I found out later that he was playing with Buzzy two hives down.

**Teacher:** Oh, that hurts when someone lies to you and chooses to play with someone other than you.

**Little Bee:** Yes, I was very hurt and I went over there and asked him about it and he lied again, so I hit him.

**Teacher:** Well, maybe your friend didn't want to hurt your feelings and tell you that he wanted to play with his other friend that morning. Maybe he thought you would get angry at him and hit him if he told you the truth.

**Little Bee:** Well, I would have been mad because I wanted him to play with me.

**Teacher:** But hitting is never the way to solve a problem. Have you ever lied to your friend?

**Little Bee:** Well, yea, sometimes.

**Teacher:** Would you like it if he came over and hit you when he found out you were lying?

**Little Bee:** No, he is bigger than me and it would hurt a lot.

**Teacher:** In our lesson today Jesus gives us an example of how we should treat people who do bad things. Maybe this will help you with your friend, Little Bee. (Open your Bible to John 8:1-11 and tell the story in your own words.)

Early in the morning, just as it was beginning to get light outside, Jesus appeared in the temple courts. All the people that were there began to gather around him so he sat down to teach them.

While he was teaching some Pharisees brought a woman that they caught doing something bad and made her stand before everyone.

One of the Pharisees asked to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught breaking the law, and in the law Moses commanded us to stone her to death for her sin. What do you say we should do? The Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus, if he would have said to follow the law and kill her, he would be no different than them, but if he let her go, he would not be following the commands of his religion. What do you think Jesus did?"

At first Jesus ignored them. He bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. The Pharisees probably thought Jesus didn't know what to say and that they had tricked him.

The Pharisees won't let Jesus not answer their question so they kept asking him. Finally Jesus straightened up, looked around at the crowd, and said, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Then he stooped down again and continued to write on the ground, not looking at the crowd.

One by one, the people began to walk away, until only Jesus was left with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

"No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Did Jesus break the Law of Moses by not having her stoned to death? No, not long after that Jesus gave his own life on the cross to pay for her sins, and all of our sins. That is what we call mercy.

Jesus showed mercy to this woman and he expected everyone else to do the same.

Jesus said, "**Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.**" Matthew 7:1

He also said, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." (Matthew 5:7) What does it mean to be merciful?

Mercy is showing kindness to someone because you know that no one is perfect, not even you. It is not getting mad at someone for doing something that you, yourself, also do sometimes. It is being understanding and forgiving.

Little Bee, if you get mad when your friend lies and hit him, you shouldn't be surprised if you get hit when you do something wrong. The Bible tells us that if we are unforgiving, then our father will be the same way towards you.

So forgive your friend when he lies to you. You can talk to him and explain that he should tell you the truth, and that you will try not to get mad and hit him when he does.

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# Prayer

Dear God, Thank for showing us how to show mercy towards others. Help us to remember not to judge other too harshly because we know that we are not perfect either. Forgive us when we get angry and do the wrong thing. Help us to love others like you loved us. Amen.

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## 1. Paint a Rock as a reminder to be Merciful Part 2

Help kids write "Mercy" on their rocks and then decorate them with markers. Tell them that the rocks will remind them to show mercy.



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# Crafts and Activities

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## 1. Review the Bible Story with a Flower Game

1. Before class print out the flower and leaf pattern.
3. Cut the lines between the petals so that the petals can be folded down.
4. Make a stem from green paper and glue the flower and leaves to the stem.



### How to Play:

1. Have your children take turns folding down one petal of the flower. Each time a child folds down a petal have that child say the verse.
2. Keep playing until all the petals are folded down or the children know the verse.