Key Thought: Giving mercy is usually easier said than done. Everyone wants to be known as a merciful person, but are we really living a life that displays a merciful attitude?

**Key Information Page**

Key Verse: Mat 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Key Teaching Point: This can never be overstated…. know your group! Know what they are dealing with! They are learning how to show mercy on a daily basis and you, their teacher, need to guide them on their journey. Being a merciful person will mark them throughout all their life. Do not take this lesson lightly. Also, examine yourself…if you need work on this area in your life be transparent and confess your struggles with them. This will help them to respect you more and be able to deal with this subject in their own lives.

Key Materials: Poster board or a small white or chalk board to write out the verse on. Some sort of signal, this can even be the timer on your cell phone or a bell of some sort. Index cards with life situations written on them. Wigs, hats, scarves and so on in a bag that cannot be seen through. Make six signs that can be worn around the student’s neck which say: Bertha, meanness, cruelty, Shirley, goodness, and mercy. Bucky teeth, these are usually sold at the dollar store or in the party favors section of your local store. Props for the retelling of the unforgiving servant story. Three pieces of cloth with words “**offence**,” “**forgiveness”** and “**mercy”** written on them.

Key of making it your own: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Level 3 Lesson 14**

**Be Ye Merciful**

C:\Users\schuette\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\EW0RYNQP\MC900334392[1].wmfUnlock their minds by thinking and feeling!

**Being known as someone who is cruel**

To make this effective you have to start with this “skit” type of play acting and the actor must be really convincing…Have someone come in and rant about the mess they made last Sunday from their snack and tell the students from this day forward they will never be allowed to eat at this church for as long as they attend and storm out. The teacher in the room then talks to the children and sees their reactions. Some may be “put out” by this adult’s actions and some may want to do something to “make amends” to be prepared for both polar opposite reactions. Remember, this group is getting older and needs guidance from you as a teacher. After they have had their say in the matter of what just took place, ask the students if that reaction from that adult was “fair” and should they be prohibited from ever eating in the church again? Ask them how do they view that adult? Would they come to that adult if they had a problem? Then ask the big question…have they ever acted that way with their little sister or brother, a friend, or a neighbor? Have they ever acted rash and just exploded on others? Then ask the adult that acted angry to come back in and talk with the students. Emphasize that no one should want to be known as someone who goes around exploding on others. It is not showing mercy.

C:\Users\schuette\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\4BN84AUH\MM900356607[1].gifUnlock their minds by doing!

**Mat 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.**

Because the verse for the week is short this week use a bell or signal to mark a time that all the class will stop what they are doing and say this week’s verse. It is suggested that the signal be done at least 7 times throughout this class. It is even recommended that the signal be sounded in the middle of other activities. The goal is to keep them on their feet and really get this verse in their hearts.

C:\Users\schuette\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\4BN84AUH\MM900356607[1].gifUnlock their minds by doing!

**Practical ways to show mercy.**

Divide your class into small groups of two or three. Hand each group an index card with a situation written on it and tell them as a group they have to come up with a way to best handle that particular situation. We have given a few ideas, but this is not an exhaustive list. This is where knowing your group and making the lesson your own through prayer is important.

* Your little brother or sister comes into your room without permission and ruins your favorite\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. First, as a group you have to come up with what is the worst thing they could ruin and then how to manage it.
* You are on the playground playing with your best friend and “Floyd” comes up and asks to play. You really don’t want to play with “Floyd” for two reasons. First, because he is terrible at the game and secondly, and more importantly, you had something you really needed to talk to your best friend about and you were playing that game to work up the courage to talk to him about it. What do you tell “Floyd”?
* You see someone else being bullied. You are not involved in any way shape or form! What should you do? Walk away because it is not your business? Tell on the bully and run the risk of getting hurt by the bully yourself at a later time because bullies usually retaliate? Try to reason with the bully, and take the chance he might hurt you?

As the groups talk about their situations walk around and listen to what each group is saying. Then call the groups together as a class and have each group talk about their situation and what they came up with to solve their problem. Have the other students express if they thought that the answer, they came up with was merciful or not. Hopefully, the students will understand that showing mercy is not always easy and something we all have to work on.

C:\Users\schuette\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\6JWZKVDH\MC900304335[1].wmfUnlock their minds by seeing!

“**Shirley” “goodness” and “mercy” shall follow…**

This can be very funny but still get your point across. Make six signs that can be worn around the student’s neck before class which say: Bertha, meanness, cruelty, Shirley, goodness, and mercy. Provide funny articles of clothing to wear such as wigs, hats, scarves, and so on. Put all the articles into a bag and have volunteers (Victims) grab into the bag without looking and pull something out and put it on. Randomly give out name signs. Then, have Bertha and her bunch line up on one side of the room and Shirley and her bunch line up on the other side of the room. Quietly, tell Shirley and her bunch on the count of three to smile their biggest smiles. Then, quietly slip Bertha and her bunch “Bucky teeth” and tell them on the count of three to smile with their teeth in a great big smile. (Only let Bertha’s bunch know they have the funny teeth.) Count to three and let the laughs begin! When the laughs die down ask the students who would you like to be following you around…. Shirley and her group, or Bertha and her group? Explain this is the last verse of the famous passage of the 23rd Psalm… Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. What do you want following you all your life?

C:\Users\schuette\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\O8ZCLLJJ\MC900304325[1].wmf Making the connection to the Word

**The unforgiving servant**

This is a great story to act out for your students! If you don’t have enough teachers to do all four of the roles use a student or two. But no matter which way you choose to present this week’s story do not forget to emphases Matt 18:35. It is really the “punch” of the story! Without mercy and forgiveness we cannot receive mercy and forgiveness!

Mat 18:23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

Mat 18:24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

Mat 18:25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

Mat 18:26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Mat 18:27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

Mat 18:28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

Mat 18:29 And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

Mat 18:30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

Mat 18:31 So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

Mat 18:32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

Mat 18:33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee?

Mat 18:34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

Mat 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

C:\Users\schuette\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\EW0RYNQP\MC900334392[1].wmfUnlock their minds by thinking and feeling!

**Mercy is usually tied**

Have a piece of red cloth with the word offence written on it. Tell your students to be able to show mercy you usually have to have this happen first…read the word **offence** on the red cloth. Usually you have been wronged and are hurt and maybe even mad at the other person. Then bring out a white cloth with the word **forgiveness** written on it and tie it to the red cloth. Forgiveness is many times a hard thing to do but you need to remember that it goes hand-in- hand with mercy. Bring out a blue cloth and tie it to the other two cloths. As we have learned today, we all want mercy shown to us, and we all want to be a person that is known for showing mercy, but they all go together. (This may be done best at their seats) Have all your students bow their heads and close their eyes and ask if they have been dealing with what we have talked about this week. Don’t call them out but tell them you will pray for them this week and that we all have problems dealing with these areas. Let the Holy Ghost move!