

# THE BEATITUDES

## LESSON 5: MERCY - JUDGING OTHERS

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***This lesson teaches children that we all need forgiveness and that we should not have a fault-finding attitude toward others.***

### TOPICS

Attitude, Behavior, Child of God, Judging, Mercy, Reputation, Self-Worth

### OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

Praise and worship are an important part of a believer's life and children often learn best by watching and repeating what they see. So please, praise and worship together.

### SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

#### Introduction:

In today's lesson, we are going to see what Jesus said about judging others. Before we begin, do you think Jesus would prefer to be on stage or in the audience? *(There are no wrong answers just opinions.)*

#### Read Matthew 7:1-5 (Judging Others)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What happens when we judge others? *(We, ourselves, are judged.)*
2. What does it mean when the verse talks about a speck of sawdust in our brother's eye or a plank in our own eye? *(The verse is talking about sin in our lives, not sawdust, or boards.)*
3. What does Jesus say about pointing out someone else's sin? *(He tells us to remove the sins from our lives before finding fault with others.)*
4. Does this mean that we should overlook or ignore another person's sin? *(No, we need to be aware of the sinful influences around us, but we should not have a harsh or fault-finding attitude towards others.)*
5. How will removing the sin from our lives allow us to help others with their sins? *(Knowing that we are sinners as well will help us be more merciful towards others.)*
6. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "with the measure you use, it will be measured to you"? *(Allow for discussion.)*
7. After reading those verses on judging others, would you change your answer on whether or not Jesus would prefer to be on stage or in the audience? Why? *(Allow for discussion. There are no wrong answers just opinions.)*

### CLASS EXERCISE (5 minutes)

**Cover to Cover (Activity)** [Click here](#)

### SUGGESTED PARENT/CHILD ACTIVITY

**Mercy Staff (see page 2)**

### APPLICATION (4 minutes)

People have a fleshly instinct to judge others, to find weaknesses and faults. Yet, God wants us to love and not judge. When you are in a situation where you are about to judge someone, remind yourself that God is your Judge and He is their Judge as well. There should only be one Judge. James 4:12 states, "There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you--who are you to judge your neighbor?" Also remember that Galatians 5:14 commands us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

### NEXT WEEK

Come back next week for another exciting teaching from Jesus.

### CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

## THE BEATITUDES

# MERCY STAFF

*The children will make a craft that will remind them to be merciful.*

### TOPICS:

Leadership, Mercy

### MATERIALS:

Large glow sticks or dowel rods (12 to 16 inch)

Hot glue, pipe cleaners

Cookie cutters: star, heart, circle

Colored card stock paper

Curling ribbon, stickers

Scissors



### DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

### PREPARATION:

Set out the materials on a table where the children will have enough room to work while also sharing supplies. Make a staff ahead of time as an example for your child.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Instruct your child to first choose a glow stick or dowel rod and then decide which supplies he or she would like to use to make a "mercy" staff. Ideas include twisting pipe cleaners together to make a special shape, using cookie cutters to cut out shapes from card stock paper, or using curling ribbon on the end of the staff – the possibilities are endless! Once decided, help your child hot glue their materials to the staff while explaining that an important quality trait for leaders is mercy.

### Application:

Mercy means giving someone a second chance instead of punishing them for something they did wrong. Share with your child about a time when a leader gave you mercy and how his or her actions encouraged your faith. Explain that Jesus is the most merciful leader, but the leaders we encounter on earth – even biblical leaders – can easily forget to be merciful. We can be merciful and extend compassion to others when they hurt our feelings. And because a staff is used to extend rule, we can also use it to extend mercy!