

Second Grade Lesson Plans

Lesson 6, Chapter 9: God's Mercy

Focus: Jesus asks us to forgive others as we are forgiven.

Materials needed:

- Pencils (in tub)
- "Fill in the Blanks" handout for half your students (in tub)
- "Listen to Your Heart" puzzle – 1 per student (in tub)
- DVD set up – " St. Francis" (if close to All Saint's Day) or "The Wonderful Wizard of Ha's")

Prayer: Our Father/Act of Contrition

What to say and do:

- ***Who knows what the word "mercy" means?*** (It means to act with compassion, kindness, sympathy, or understanding).
- ***Who do you think of when you hear the word "mercy"?*** (Kids might say mom, dad, grandma, etc. Draw comparisons between the mercy they experience from others and God's mercy toward us.)
- ***We say God is merciful or acts with mercy, but what does that mean?***
- ***If God treats us with mercy (kindness, understanding, or sympathy), what do you think that means when we sin?***

If watching the Wizard of Ha's:

- ***There is a great story in the Bible about a son who disobeys his father, it's called "The Prodigal Son". Have you heard of it? Veggie Tales has made a DVD about that story so let's watch it now.***

- **How do you think the younger son felt when the older son came home to a big party? Why did the father forgive his younger son?** (The younger son was sorry for what he had done and asked forgiveness from his father.) **Who does the father in this story remind you of?** (God)
- **What does God teach us about forgiving others?** (We need to forgive others because God forgives us.) **Is it always easy to forgive others? What can we do when it is hard?** (Ask God for help, tell someone else who could help you talk about how you feel.)
If watching “St. Francis”
- **We are very close to a special holy day called “All Saint’s Day”. This is a day our church sets aside to honor all those very special people called saints. A saint is a person who has given his or her life to God and lived in a way that set an example for everyone who loves God to follow. The saints made it possible for us to worship as Catholics today – many of them died for their Catholic faith during a time when it was a crime to worship God. Thanks to the brave saints, our Church has grown to be a world- wide Church that we can be a part of today. Let’s watch a movie about one of those saints, I bet you have heard of him – his name is St. Francis.**

If time:

- **Let’s play a little forgiveness game!** (Divide the kids up into groups of two. Give each team one “Fill in the Blanks” sheet and one pencil.)
- **In this game, you’ll need to work together with your partner to create a funny story. Here’s how it works: In a moment, I’ll give one person in each pair a story with several words left out. That person will need to ask the other person to give him or her some words to fill in the blanks. As partners, you will create a story about forgiveness. Then we can share our stories with each other. You**

don't need to do the right thing in your story if you don't want to. It's just a story, so write it however you want!

Give the children time to write their stories and then share them with the class.

Follow up on each story asking if the team made a loving choice in their story. If not, what could they have done differently?

If you have extra time, let children do the "Listen to Your Heart" puzzle and discuss.

(Answer: "It's Called a Conscience.")

Closing Prayer: Hail Mary/Glory Be