



*Jesus taught His disciples the following lesson:*

Treat other people just as you would like other people to treat you. It is easy to love people who love you. It is also easy to be kind to people who are kind to you, and to share with people who share with you. Even mean people are kind to those they like! But it is very difficult to love those people who do not love you, or to be kind to those who are not kind to you, or to share with those who do not share with you. Love everyone, be kind to everyone, share with everyone--even those who are not kind to you. If you do, you will be greatly blessed and you will be children of God. Therefore, be kind to all, just as your Father in heaven wants you to be.

1. Jesus wants us to help each other. He wants us to try especially hard to help people that are not always nice or kind to us.
2. Can you think of someone at school, or the playground, or in your neighborhood, who is not always kind to you?
3. Pretend that kid has just hit you, or said you couldn't join in a game. What do you feel like doing?
4. Most of us want to hit back, or be mean, that would be an easy choice, but that would just bring more meanness into the world.
5. Jesus wants more goodness to come into the world. From our lesson today, can you tell what Jesus wants you to do if that mean kid fell and got hurt, or wanted to play, or needed your help?
6. When someone is mean to you, pray "Holy Spirit, help me to not be mean back."



1. Is there someone who has been mean to you? Think about school, the playground, your neighborhood, or on the soccer team.

2. How would you like that person to treat you?

3. Jesus wants us to treat others the way we want to be treated, even when we don't want to.

4. Jesus taught us that the most important thing is to spread goodness in the world, and not meanness. So, if someone is mean to us, we have a choice. We can either be mean back, which brings more evil in the world; or, we can ask God to help us be kind to that person.

5. It isn't easy to be a follower, or disciple, of Jesus. We need to try hard to treat others the way we want to be treated. You can pray, "Holy Spirit, please help me to be kind to everyone."

*Jesus* taught His disciples the following lesson: Treat others just as you would have others treat you. If you only love those who love you, what good have you done? For even those who are mean love those that love them. If you are only kind to those who are kind to you, what good have you done? For even those who are mean are kind to those who are kind to them. And if you only share with those who you think might share with you, what good have you done? For even those who are mean share with each other if they think they will get something in return.

Instead, love those who do not love you. Be kind to those who are not kind to you. Give to those who have nothing to give you in return. Do these things and your reward will be great and you will be children of God. God is good to everyone, even those who are not thankful to Him, and those who are mean. Therefore, be kind, just as your Father in heaven is kind to all.



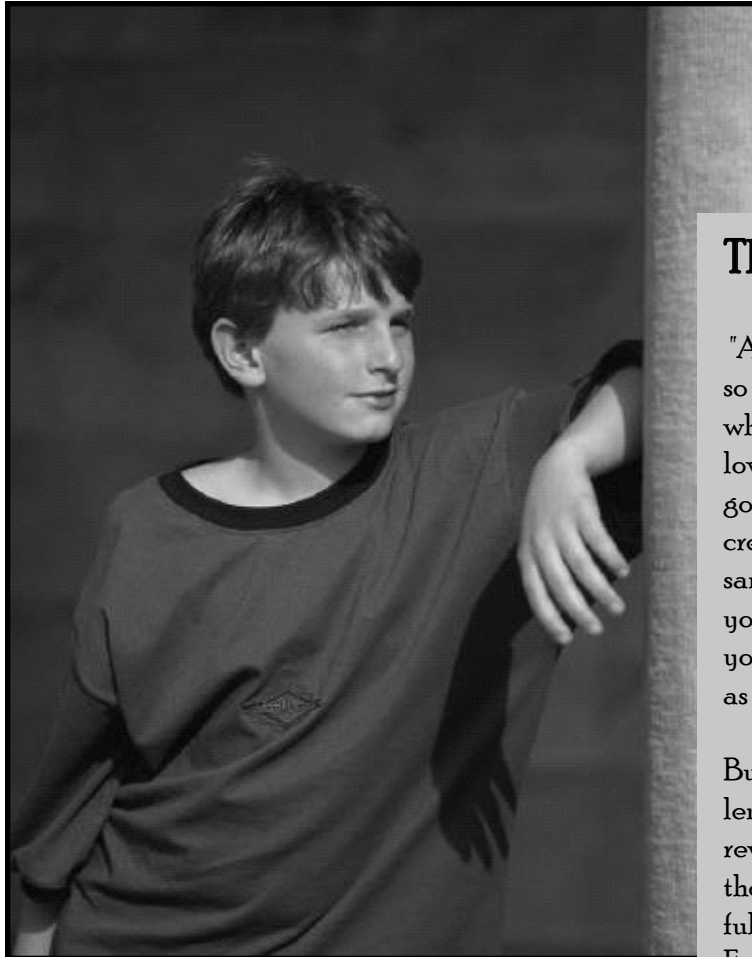
### **The Lord said,**

"As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

1. This gospel ends with the call to "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." What does the word mercy or merciful mean? To help figure the meaning of this word out try looking it up in a dictionary and also asking two people you know to define the word. You can compare the three definitions you found.  
2. Why does the gospel say we should be merciful?

3. How are you like your mom and dad? How do you look like them? Act like them? Sound like them?  
4. How does the reading tell us we can become children of God the Father?  
5. If we become children of God by being merciful the way God is merciful then we need to find out how God is merciful. To do that, listen in the liturgy tomorrow for places where we say "Lord have

mercy." What kinds of things does the priest or deacon ask God for before we say Lord have mercy?  
6. Do you know people who do the things we ask God to do for us? How are your parents, teachers, friends, or people at church merciful the way God is merciful?  
7. What is one thing you can do this week to be merciful to someone?



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1. This gospel ends with the call to "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." What does the word mercy or merciful mean? To help figure the meaning of this word out try looking it up in a dictionary and also asking two people you know to define the word. Then compare the three definitions you found and come up with your own definition.
2. Why does the text suggest we should be merciful?
3. How do you know you are a child of your mom and dad? What makes you their child and not someone else's child?
4. How does the text tell us we become children of God the Father? How is that similar to being a child of your mom and dad? How is it different?

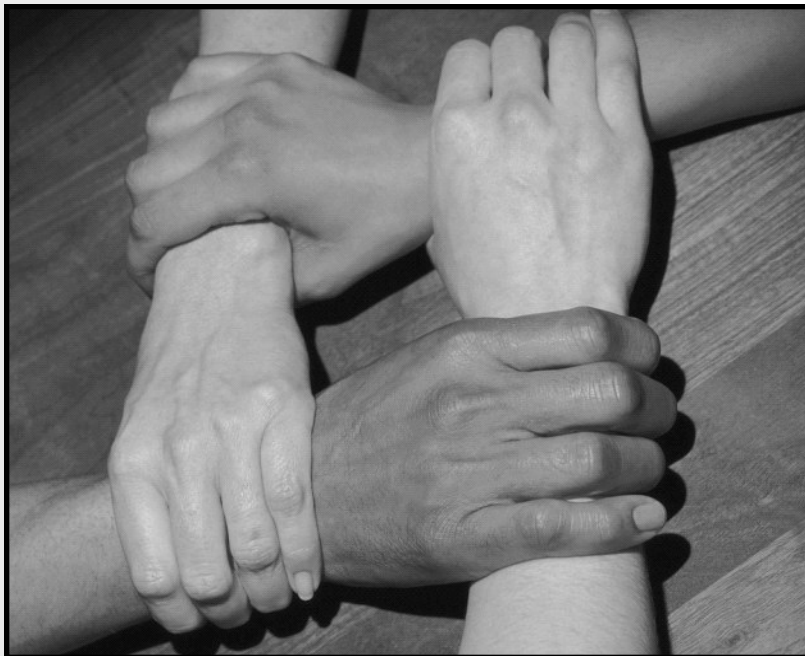
5. If we become children of God by being like God, by being merciful as God is merciful, then we need to find out how God is merciful. Try to find the places where we say "Lord have mercy" in the liturgy tomorrow. What do we ask God for when we say "Lord have mercy?"
6. What do your discoveries tell us about how we can be like the Father? If God is merciful to us by (Answers to question 5), how can we be merciful to others?
7. What examples of people being merciful can you think of? How have your classmates been merciful? Your teachers? Parents? Friends?
8. What can you do this week to be merciful?

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1. What does the word mercy or merciful mean?
2. Why does the text suggest we should be merciful?
3. What makes you the son or daughter of your parents and not someone else's?
4. How does the text tell us we become a son or daughter of God the Father? How is that similar to being a daughter or son of your parents? How is it different?
5. How do we ask God to be merciful to us during the liturgy?
6. What do your discoveries suggest about how we can be like the Father? Are there any aspects of God's mercy that we can't imitate?
7. Has anyone you know been merciful to you? How?
8. What one thing can you do at school this week to be merciful to a classmate, teacher or friend?