

LESSON PLAN

Lesson Number: 157

Grade Level: 4-6

Title: Should I Show Mercy? (Mercy)

Text/Story: John 8:1-11; Titus 3:3-7

Main idea: Mercy is compassion which forbears punishment when justice demands it. God extends mercy to those that ask.

Key Verse: Psalm 106:1

Time	Activity	Description
	Pre-Lesson (from the Teacher's Guide) Object Lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring a monthly bill from a utility company, credit card company etc. and a cheque written to pay the bill • As you discuss the bill and the amount owed, emphasize that the bill had to be paid or consequences will occur • Make a parallel to the debt we owe for disobeying God; reproduce the "Bill of Life" and "Cheque" pages on overhead projector or enlarge on chart paper • Tell how each one of us has such an 'account' and all our sins are recorded (list some examples on bill) and payment will be made at the end of life in the form of punishment in hell; but God has the 'cheque' ready for those who repent: Jesus paid the debt at Calvary but we must ask for His mercy
	Lesson John 8:1-11 Story Web	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If working with younger children, tell the story using pictures, flannelgraph, etc.; fill out the story web together as a class • For older children read the story together as a class or in groups; have the students fill out the story web sheet in partners or groups • be sure to emphasize that the solution to the unidentified woman's problem of sin was Jesus' compassion and mercy
	Post-Lesson Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask a guest to visit the class to be interviewed • Have the children ask questions (use interview question sheet or have students come up with their own questions) • Options: tape the interview on video or audio cassette

BILL OF LIFE

Statement of Account

Prepared for:

name

Billing date: _____

date of birth

address

Pay by: _____

end of life

Date	Description
TOTAL COST:	ETERNAL PUNISHMENT

Pay by due date. Account may be reconciled with the Master of Life before payment due date.

CHEQUE

Bank of Heaven
7777 Celestial Boulevard
City of Heaven

133479990

_____ 19 _____

Pay _____ Bill of Life _____

To the order of _____ Payment for sin in full (through Jesus' death
_____ on the cross) _____

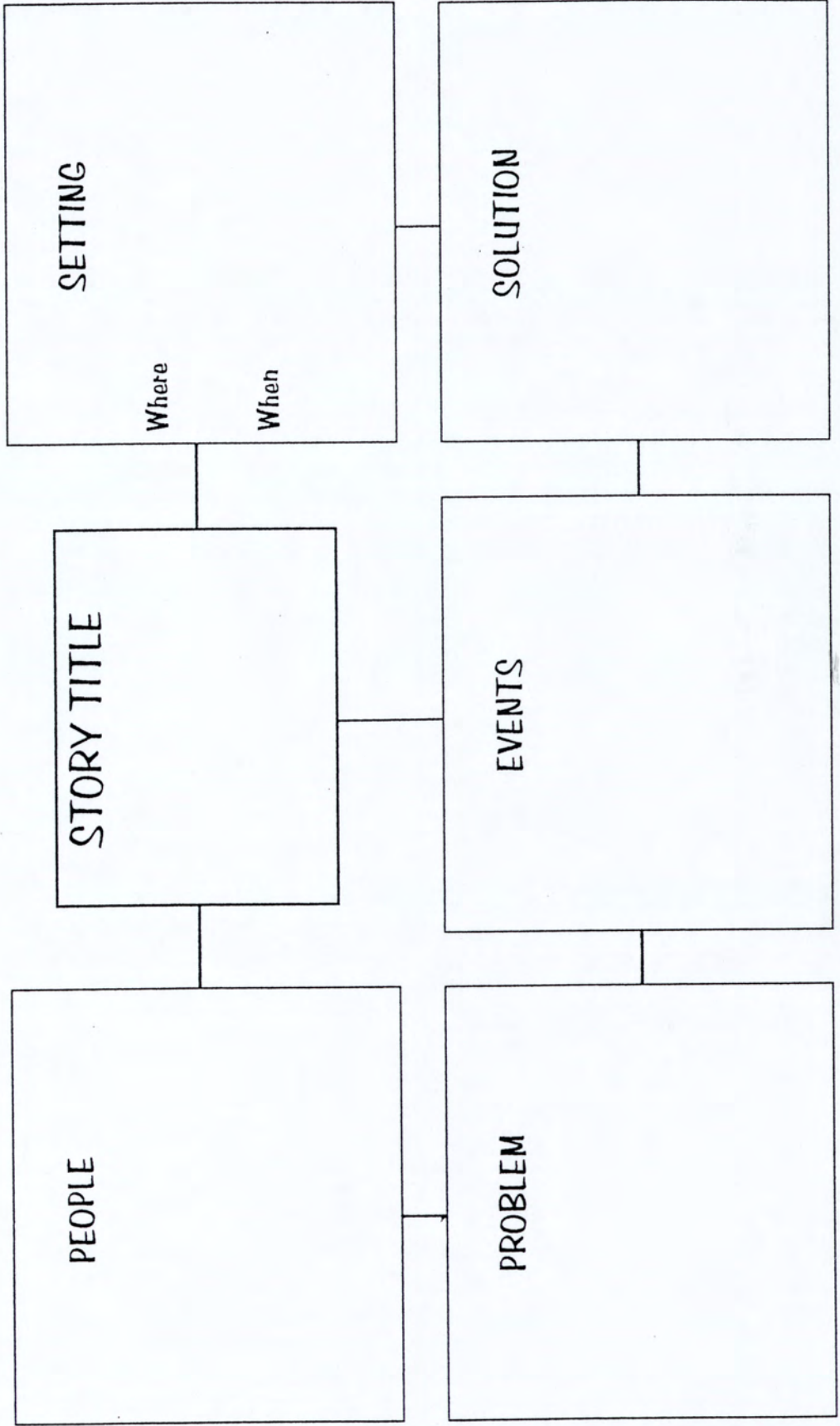
Your Loving Heavenly Father

JESUS SHOWS MERCY

Story Web



Read the story of how Jesus showed mercy to an adulterous woman in John 8:1-11. Fill in the boxes below.



INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

These are some of the possible questions students can ask the guest speaker.

1. How old were you when God saved you?
2. Where were you living?
3. What was your life like before you got saved?
4. Did you go to church before you got saved? How did you find out about Jesus?
5. Are other members of your family saved?
6. Where were you when God saved you?
7. How do you know God forgave you for your sins?
8. What's your life like now?
9. Do you still have problems like you had before? What do you do about them?
10. How does God still show you mercy?



Tender Mercy

You have probably heard the saying, "For every action there is a consequence." Read through this list of examples, and decide which consequence goes with which action.

Match 'em up	
Action	Consequence
Exercise	Get a ticket
Drive too fast	Get an A+
Rob a bank	Gain Strength
Study hard for a test	Smell good
Take a shower	Go to jail

Look up Titus 3:3 in your Bible, and list (on the lines below) some actions of a sinner which deserve the consequence of death.

Underline the two words in the following verse, Titus 3:4, which let us know why God has extended mercy to all?

"But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared."

We ~~must~~ never forget that our salvation is dependent on God's mercy. Titus 3:5 tells us that we, in ourselves, can do nothing to escape the consequences of our sin, but God has provided a way. Look up Titus 3:5 and fill in the missing words to this verse: "Not by _____ of righteousness which _____ have done, but according to his _____ he saved us, by the washing of _____, and renewing of the _____."

Make Psalm 119:77 your prayer today:

"Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight."

Opener: Two contrasting skits.

1. A kid is caught shoplifting. Because the kid shows sorrow and regret, the Manager tells him he will let him go without pressing charges.
2. A kid is caught shoplifting. Because the kid is rebellious and hateful, the Manager does not show mercy, but calls the police. The kid is arrested and charged with shoplifting.

Discuss: God's mercy is available, but a person must seek it.

Read: John 8:1 - 11 (or have students read aloud)

Explain: Every story in the Bible is there for a reason -- why do you think God put this one in?

For older students, questions may be written out on 3 x 5 cards for discussion.

For younger students, following the reading of the story, the questions may be used for tic-tac-toe or another review game.

1. What was the punishment for adultery?
2. Who wanted to punish the woman?
3. How did Jesus get those men to leave?
4. What do you think Jesus wrote when He wrote on the ground?
5. What did Jesus tell the woman after everyone had left?
6. How did Jesus show mercy to the woman?
7. What did Jesus say to the men who wanted to punish the woman?
8. How did those men feel when the Bible says they were "convicted by their own conscience"?
9. When Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn thee," what was He doing?
10. What is mercy?
11. When Jesus said, "Go and sin no more," what do you think He did for the woman?

Wrap-up: God cares for us in every detail of our lives. Think about a time when someone (it can be God) showed mercy to you. Raise your hand when you're ready to share.

Have class share briefly. Wrap-up with a class-member's or your own testimony of God's mercy extended to forgive sins and cleanse the heart, when we seek it.