



# WEEK 3

## ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

# BRAVE

### BIG IDEA

We can show others mercy.

### THE BIBLE

**David Spares Saul's Life:** 1 Samuel 24:1-18;  
(Luke 6:36)

## LARGE GROUP TIME

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

### MUSIC | Who You Say I Am

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Spend some time in worship with your kids! You can choose any song but you might want to check out ["Who You Say I Am"](#) by Hillsong.

### ACTIVITY | Mercy Tag

- We are in week three of our Brave series, where we're learning about what it means to be brave!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose one kid to be "Merciless Max." The remaining kids will be runners. On your signal, have Merciless Max try to tag as many people as they can. Those tagged will sit out a round. Now, choose another kid to be "Merciful Morgan." Replay the game with one change. Merciful Morgan can tap players tagged in the first round to rejoin the game. Those newly tagged will sit out until Merciful Morgan grants them mercy by gently tapping them on the shoulder. Repeat as time permits.
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** If you have students with visual impairments, have Max and Morgan carry a device that makes sounds (it may be simply your phone playing music, or jingle bells). If your student is medically fragile or has heart issues, have students tiptoe or use quiet feet without running.

### ACTIVITY | Mercy Relay

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have two identical sets of relay stations set up for each team to go through.

Divide the group into two teams. Each team will race through their stations to try to beat the other team's time, saying a letter of the word 'mercy' each time they do the action noted on the game card. Each action will be completed five times, one time for each letter in the word 'mercy'. The first team to complete the relay wins.

- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** You can switch to fine motor skill activities such as stacking up blocks, transferring objects using tongs, connecting dots, blowing bubbles, or throwing beanbags. Or insert a transition activity such as dimming the lights, singing softly, or asking them an engaging question to slow them down.

### QUESTION | What Does "Mercy" Mean?

- **How would you define the word "mercy"?**
- Mercy is another word for "compassion." It's often used to describe letting someone out of punishment or trouble even though it would serve them right. Showing mercy means you are willing to be kind, loving, and to help someone else. . . especially when that person doesn't really deserve it.
- There are many ways to show mercy to someone. But sometimes showing mercy or compassion can be hard, especially when someone doesn't treat us well and needs our forgiveness. That's what we're talking about today.

### THE BIG IDEA | We can show others mercy.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Announce the Big Idea by encouraging kids to count down from ten and then use a confetti canon or pass out party poppers while the Big Idea is displayed on a projector screen or large poster.
- This week's Big Idea: **We can show others mercy.**

**SO WHAT?** Why does it matter to God and to us?

### VIDEO | Brave, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

### SCRIPTURE | 1 Samuel 24:1-18

- So far, we learned about how God helped David be brave by choosing him to become the king, and using David to take down the giant Goliath. Today, we'll see how David showed he was brave by showing mercy and how we can show mercy to others, too.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up 1 Samuel 24:1-18 in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- In the chapters leading up to today's passage, David had become a hero in the eyes of the Israelites, especially after he fought and defeated Goliath. Saul, who was king at the time, became jealous of David's success and popularity, so much so, that he wanted to harm David.
- David knew this, so he ran and hid from Saul, and that's where we pick up the story.
- **How many troops did Saul send after David?**

- **Where did Saul and David end up together?**
- **What did David's men want David to do to Saul?**
- **How did David respond?**
- David could have used that opportunity to get rid of Saul for good. After all, his own life would have been spared. But David chose another way. He showed mercy to Saul.
- **How did Saul respond to David?**
- Two lives were changed that day: David showed mercy to someone who wanted to harm him and Saul received mercy that he did not deserve.
- The same thing happens when we show mercy to someone. We feel at peace and the other person feels gratitude.

#### VIDEO | Compassion

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the kids [this video](#) about the Compassion Experience.
- The kids in this video remind us you are never too young to think about compassion. Even if you don't get the chance to think about people who need our compassion all over the world, we encounter situations almost every day where we get the chance to show compassion to someone.
- **What are some ways you can show compassion in your everyday life?**
- Showing compassion is a choice that we can make, not only for others, but for ourselves.

#### OBJECT LESSON | Mercy Over Anger

- *(Hold up the stress ball)* **Does anyone know what this is?** Yes, it's a stress ball. What do you use it for? You use it to help calm you down. You focus on rolling or squeezing it to get rid of your anger *(Demonstrate how to use it)*. There are some times when people disappoint us, hurt us, or make us angry, but we can choose to show mercy over anger *(Place the ball in one hand and use your other hand to cover it)*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Having a stress ball or other fidget toys at all times in classrooms for students who are hyperactive and inattentive may be a good idea to help calm their body.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask: What are some real ways that you can show compassion instead of anger or meanness to someone? Have you ever had to do that? Were you successful in showing compassion, or did anger win?

#### SCRIPTURE | Luke 6:36

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Luke 6:32-36 together.
- This verse gives a simple command, to be merciful, because God is merciful. Maybe that's why David showed mercy to Saul. That's why we can show mercy to others.
- **Who is Jesus telling us to love?**
- **Is it easy to love those we don't get along with?**
- **How might this command and reason change how you respond when you are wronged?**
- **How has God shown mercy to you?** God has shown us mercy in lots of ways, and the greatest act of mercy ever was by sending Jesus to die for us. **How was that an act of mercy?** Right. . .

we didn't really deserve forgiveness or for God to rescue us and have Jesus die for us. But we got it anyway. God is the best example of showing mercy ever.

### **NOW WHAT?** *What does God want us to do about it?*

#### **REFLECTION | Merciful Me**

- As you think back over what we read from the Bible today:
- **What part stood out to you the most?**
- **Who could you most relate to in our story today?**
- **What is the hardest part about showing mercy?**
- None of us show mercy all the time. Sometimes, we put our needs or feelings ahead of others, even if that means not choosing to do the right thing. When we pray for help in this area, God can give us a new way of thinking.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Add a real life story of a time when you had to show mercy to someone, or ask an older kid to share a story.*

#### **PRAYER**

- Spend a few moments quietly talking to God about what you reflected on. Ask God to reveal what might need to change in your life so you can show mercy to others. Ask God to bring someone to mind who might need a little compassion from you right now.

#### **ACTIVITY | Group Cheer**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break kids off into smaller groups of 3-4. Encourage the groups to work together to come up with a group cheer/rhyme about showing mercy. Then, encourage them to do the cheer several times before leaving for the day.*

#### **MEMORY VERSE | Memory Wiped**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Write the memory verse and scripture reference on the chalkboard/white board. Instruct the kids to read it aloud a few times. Erase one word and let them say it again. Erase another word and say it again. Repeat until the entire verse is erased. Then, encourage them to try to recite it from memory.*

## **SMALL GROUP TIME**

#### **DISCUSSION**

- **Why did Saul want to harm David?**
- **Why did David spare Saul's life?**
- **How did Saul respond when David spared his life?**
- **Read Luke 6:36. How has God been merciful to you this week?**
- **Instead of seeking revenge, what should be your response to someone who has hurt you?**

- How can you respond to someone who has wronged you?
- Do you know anyone who needs to be shown compassion? How can you show compassion to them?

#### ACTIVITY | Mercy Mosaic

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a four-by-four square of light-colored construction paper. Encourage them to think of ways we can show mercy and compassion to others and write them on these paper squares. Then, make a mosaic by attaching the papers to the poster board to remind the kids to show others mercy often.

#### MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Introduce kids to this month's memory verse, teaching them the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.



# WEEK 3

## HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

# BRAVE

BY EUGENIA LEE

### HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but kids with special needs tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your kids with special needs more engaged.

#### ACTIVITY | Mercy Tag

When there are gross motor activities, assess your students' needs and accommodate accordingly. If you have students with visual impairments, have Max and Morgan carry a device that makes sounds (it may be simply your phone playing music, or jingle bells). If your student is medically fragile or has heart issues, have students tiptoe or use quiet feet without running.

#### ACTIVITY | Mercy Relay

Once again, you know your students' needs and if this seems like a lot of gross motor activities in one day, make adjustments to include them safely. If some students would have to take a break, alternate with some fine motor activities or other fun activities for relay stations. For example, stacking up blocks, transferring balls/pom poms from one jar to another using a tong or a clothespin, stringing beads, connecting dots by numbers, blowing bubbles, throwing beanbags, and so on.

Sometimes, gross motor activities are just what you need for your group of students. If this describes your students, think of a transition activity to slow down students and bring them back to sit down for the next activity. Dimming the lights is my go-to trick to help students know to slow down their body and senses. Other options is singing a song softly (slower tune) or give them a question to engage in thinking.



### **OBJECT LESSON | Mercy Over Anger**

Social emotional development is one major area that many students with special needs struggle with. Recognizing their negative feelings and regulating it to the positive feeling can be particularly difficult for students with ADHD, who often have hyperactivity, impulsivity and inattentiveness. Emotional outbursts (or tantrums) may occur for students at churches, too. Having a stress ball or other fidget toys at all times in classrooms for students who are hyperactive and inattentive may be a good idea to help calm their body.

