

# Rejoice With Me

### **Objectives:**

- Emphasize what we learn of mercy from Jesus Christ's example.
- Talk about how we can reach "lost sheep" by being merciful and gracious.

### **Reinforces Principle of:**

- Mercy
- Grace

## Each lesson contains 5 activities:

(Choose the activities that fit your family's schedule. Additional resources are provided as extra time may be available.)

**Reverence Time:** Song, prayer, scripture and video clip **Lesson Time:** Lesson summary and points to ponder

**Story Time:** Story

Activity Time: Object lesson or activity

Treat Time: Prayer, theme related recipe & music video



Approximate Time: 5 minutes

**Sing Together:** 

Children's Songbook #74 "I Feel My Savior's Love," verses 3 & 4. If you wish to have an online music file to accompany you visit:

https://www.lds.org/music/library/childrens-songbook/i-feel-my-saviors-love

**Prayer:** 

**Scripture Time:** Matthew 9:10–13

10. And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.

11. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

12. But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

13. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

**Video Clip:** 

Watch a clip (11:15 - 13:11, 16:27 - 20:04) from the Living Scriptures Streaming Library, *The Lost is Found* (The Animated New Testament)



Approximate Time: 10 minutes

(For younger children, it may be helpful to summarize the following ideas):

# Lesson Summary:

"The Savior constantly responded to remarks from self-righteous individuals with words that stressed the value of repentant souls. Self-righteousness versus mercy, lack of forgiveness versus repentance—these conflicts were so crucial that Jesus focused a set of three parables of mercy: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son." Richard Lloyd Anderson, Ensign, Feb 1987 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

"The plan of mercy could not be brought about except an atonement should be made; therefore God himself atoneth for the sins of the world, to bring about the plan of mercy, ...." (Alma 42:15)

What is mercy? (Discuss ideas.)

"Mercy is the compassionate treatment of a person greater than what is deserved, and it is made possible through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. Our Heavenly Father knows our weaknesses and sins. He shows mercy when He forgives us of our sins and helps us return to dwell in His presence." Gospel Topics © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

Is forgiveness of sin the only gift of mercy from Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ? (Discuss ideas.)

Every blessing we receive from our Heavenly Father is an act of mercy. A few of the merciful gifts we receive from Heavenly Father are: answers to our prayers, guidance and comfort from the Holy Ghost and being healed through the power of the priesthood.

Should we show mercy towards others? (Discuss ideas.)

The Savior taught, "Be ye . . . merciful, as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:36).

How can we show mercy towards others? (Discuss ideas.)

"How godlike a quality is mercy. ... It is part of the endowment each of us receives as a son or daughter of God and partaker of a divine birthright. ... I plead for an effort among all of us to give greater expression and wider latitude to this instinct which lies within us. Let us show mercy to others by being more compassionate, gentler, filled with forbearance and patience and a greater measure of respect one for another." *Gordon B. Hinckley*, Ensign, *May 1990 © Intellectual Reserve*, *Inc. All rights reserved*.

## Points to Ponder:

#### Why did Christ show mercy towards sinners? (Discuss ideas.)

Christ dwelled among sinners and showed mercy towards them upon the principle that they repented of their sins. All of us sin. Through His merciful atonement we can be saved by following Him.

"The infinite mercy of God cancels any punishment if the person repents, asks for forgiveness, and promises to follow Christ. God's mercy comes from his unlimited and unconditional love for us. Likewise, we should show mercy to others..." *Robert E. Wells*, Ensign, *Dec 1987 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.* 

#### How can being unmerciful affect our lives? (Discuss ideas.)

"There are those among us who torture themselves through their inability to show mercy and to forgive others some supposed offense or slight, however small it may be. At times the statement is made, 'I never can forgive [this person or that person].' Such an attitude is destructive to an individual's well-being. It can canker the soul and ruin one's life." *Thomas S. Monson*, Ensign, *May 1995 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved*.

## How does showing mercy to others help us keep the commandment to "love one another" (John 13:34-35)?

"Mercy means learning to love others more than we love ourselves—and so does justice. They guide us to turn the other cheek, walk the extra mile, and render to others more than they justly deserve—because we love them. 'Judge not, and ye shall not be judged,' taught Jesus immediately after His admonition to be merciful (Luke 6:37)." *Lance B. Wickman*, Ensign, *Jun 2000 © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved*.

#### **Quote:**

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:4–10).



Approximate Time: 2 minutes

"Mommy, can I call Grandpa James when we get home?" Gwen asked as the car pulled out of the church parking lot.

Mother smiled. "Of course. Grandpa always loves talking to his grandkids!"

"I talk to Gwampa, too!" Luke exclaimed.

"Yes, Luke. You can talk to Grandpa, too," Mother responded.

After the family arrived home and the children had changed into playclothes Mother dialed Grandpa's number and handed the phone to Gwen before going into the kitchen to make dinner.

"I talk to Gwampa," Luke said grabbing at the phone.

"No, Luke," Gwen protested, raising the phone above her head out of Luke's reach. "I get to talk first."

Luke let out a high pitched scream and began kicking Gwen in the shins. Gwen began to cry and dropped the phone as she tried to hold Luke away from her.

Father heard the commotion and came running into the room. "What is going on?" he asked, pulling the screaming and kicking child away from his sister.

Luke continued to scream, "I talk, I talk, I talk..."

"Luke, stop it right now!" Father said firmly. "You can't kick your sister."

"He hurt my legs," Gwen cried. "And I didn't do anything to him," she said defensively.

"Luke, you need to tell Gwen your sorry," Father pleaded. "She loves you. It's not nice to hurt her."

"No," Luke said stubbornly. "She not let me talk to Gwampa."

Father picked Luke up and looked into his eyes. "If you won't apologize you're going to time-out," he said.

Luke began to cry. "No time-out," he wailed. "I talk to Gwampa. Gwen is meany!"

"I am not mean and if he won't apologize, I'm never speaking to him again," Gwen pouted.

Father turned and gave Gwen a warning look before carrying Luke to his bedroom for time-out.

After Father left the room, Gwen mumbled to herself. "I don't know why he's looking at me like that. I didn't do anything wrong."

"Hello. Hello," Grandpa James spoke loudly into the phone, "anybody there?"

Gwen scrambled to find the phone. "Hi, Grandpa," she said picking it up. "I'm here."

"Well, thunder and lightning! What's going on there?" Grandpa asked.

"Oh, Luke's being a brat," Gwen answered. "Mommy gave *me* the phone so I could talk to you and *he* started screaming and kicking me for *no* reason."

"I see," Grandpa said. "Well, what's on your mind, kiddo?"

"Do you have any lost sheep?" Gwen asked. "Sister Green said the Good Shepherd wants us to help find all the lost sheep, but we don't have any sheep. So I want to help you find *your* lost sheep?"

Grandpa chuckled. "Well, darlin' all my sheep are accounted for. You see, old Ranger is such a mighty fine sheep dog that not a one of my sheep is lost," he explained. "Are you *sure* you don't have any lost sheep at your house?" Grandpa teased.

"I promise, Grandpa. We don't have any sheep at all!"

"Gwenny, do you remember how that little lamb was a'bawling the last time you came to visit me?"

"I remember, Grandpa," Gwen sniffled, "She was sad 'cause she had wandered away from her mama."

"That's right, Pumpkin. And remember how happy the ewe was when she found the little critter?"

Gwen laughed. "She was so happy she licked him so hard, he almost tipped over."

"Well, the way your little brother was a'bawling and a'carrying on, I'm thinking he just might be a little bit lost right now."

"Oh, he's not lost Grandpa. He's just in time-out for being naughty," Gwen explained. "And I'm so mad at him I hope he has to stay in time-out for a long, long time!," Gwen confessed.

"Well, you see, Gwen. Jesus' is the Good Shepherd, but his flock is *all* of God's children. When one of us is naughty or not doing what's right, we've strayed from the flock. That's when Jesus needs *our help* finding 'em and bringing 'em back," Grandpa explained, "And the best way for us to do that is to be forgiving and show mercy to 'em."

"But, Grandpa, Luke wasn't even sorry!" Gwen protested.

"That's why they call it mercy, Sweetheart. You see, if you stay mad at Luke, he's likely to stay mad at you, too. But if you show him mercy and forgive him, *even* if he's not sorry, well then he'll see what a great sister he has. And before you know it, he'll be apologizing. Then, *you*, Little Lady, will have helped find *one* of Jesus' lost sheep! But, if you don't, well, *you* just might get *lost*, too!"

Gwen paused for a moment. "I gotta go now, Grandpa. I've got to find Luke and tell him I'm sorry so *neither* of us are lost sheep! And, Grandpa, when I find him, I'm going to be so happy that I'm going to hug him *so* tight he *almost* tips over!"

by Margie Nauta Lee



# **Activity Time**

What you need:

A copy of the "Lost is Found" activity, scissors, glue and cardstock.

**Preparation** 

- 1. Glue the "lost sheep" pages to cardstock.
- 2. Cut out.
- 3. Glue the two "lost sheep" halves together, leaving legs free so that it can stand up.
- 4. Choose five places to hide clues. Write a clue to each hiding place on the back of each correct answer. Example:

M- To find the next clue look in the hall closet. (Place question E and answers in the hall closet.)

**E**- To find the next clue take twenty steps east and twelve steps south. (Place question R and answers 20 steps east and 12 steps south of hall closet.)

**R**- The next clue can be found in a spot where food is kept cold but not frozen. (Place question C and answers in the refrigerator.)

C- The find the next clue solve the riddle: What gets wet when drying? (Place question Y on a towel.)

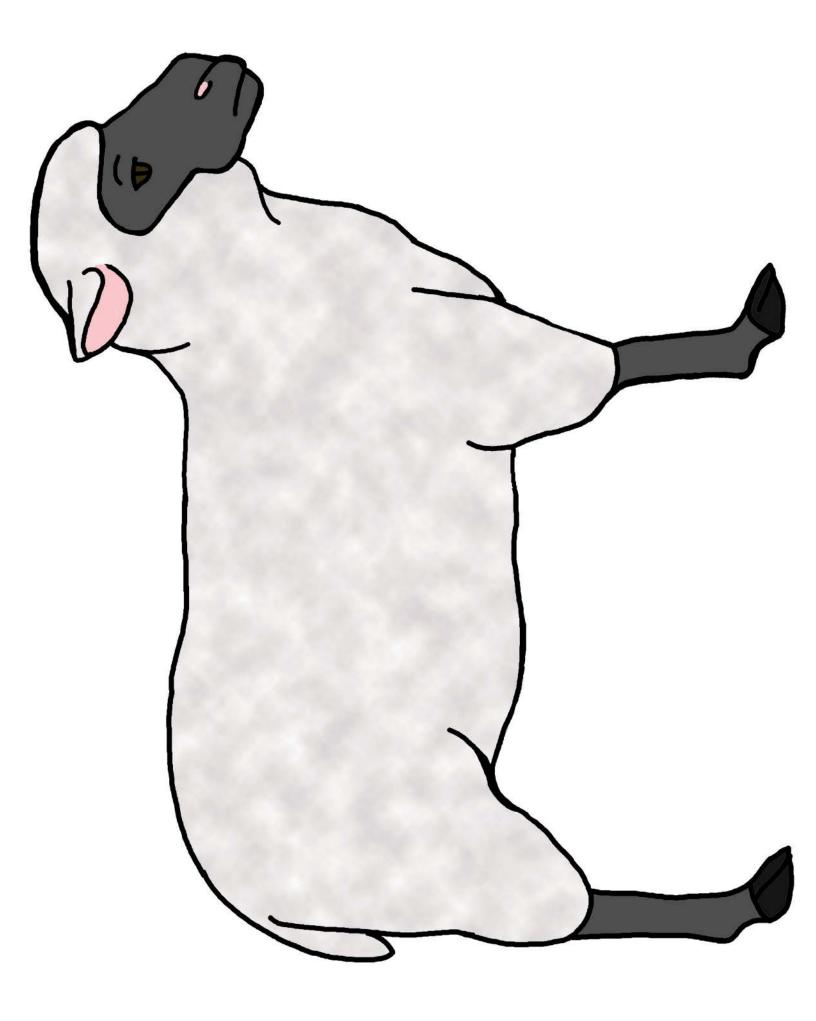
**Y-** To find the "lost sheep" answer "Who am I?" "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep." (John 10:15) (Hide the "lost sheep" behind a picture of Jesus.)



**Activity:** 

(Younger children will need help from an older sibling or parent.)

- 1. Read: "How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?" (Matthew 18:12)
- 2. Explain that there is a lost sheep somewhere in your house that you need to find.
- 3. Play the "Lost is Found" activity by reading the questions and following the "treasure hunt" of clues.
- 4. Put the questions together to spell MERCY. Ask: What do we need to have to find "lost sheep"?
- 5. Read: "And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray." (Matthew 18:13)
- 6. Ask: Why do we celebrate when we help bring the sheep who have gone astray back to the fold? (Discuss ideas.)





ike made the city baseball team and his games will be on Sunday. What should you do?

- M-1. Invite him to come to church with you after the season is over.
- M-2. Tell him that you won't be his friend if he is going to play ball on Sunday.
- M-3. Invite him to come to church with you and to play church baseball instead.

rin just moved into the neighborhood and she is angry because she didn't want to leave her friends. When you went to welcome her to the neighborhood she wouldn't even talk to you. What should you do?

- E-1. Keep trying to be her friend.
- E-2. Tell her that she won't have any friends if she's going to act like that.
- E-3. Never talk to her again.

Robert quit going to primary because Kurt told everyone that they would get cooties if they sat by him. What should you do?

- R-1. Tell him that he shouldn't let Kurt keep him from church and he should be more forgiving like Jesus was.
- R-2. Tell him you understand how he feels and you're sorry Kurt hurt his feelings. Then invite him to sit by you at church.
- R-3. Don't do anything or Kurt might be mean to you next.

Caleb pushed you for no reason. What should you do?
C-1. Respond with kindness and forgive him.
C-2. Push him down.
C-3. Tell him that you'll forgive him only if he apologizes.
olanda has started swearing when she's at school because she thinks it makes her more grown up. What should you do?
Y-1. Start swearing, too, so she'll still be your friend.
Y2. Stop being her friend.
Y3. Tell her how much her friendship means to you and that you wish she wouldn't swear around you.



**Approximate Time: 60 minutes** 

**Prep Time:** 10 minutes plus 15–30 minutes rising time.

Bake Time: 15 minutes

"Lost Sheep" Rolls

1 Rhodes<sup>TM</sup> Dinner Roll per person 1 egg 1 peppercorn per person Poppy seeds Parmesan cheese, grated



Thaw dinner rolls until soft, but still cold. Beat egg and set aside.

**Treat Time:** Divide roll in two with one half being slightly larger. Flatten the larger half into an oblong for the body. Make a small cut on one side near the top to make a tail. Place on a sprayed baking sheet. Divide the remaining dough in half. Flatten one half into an oblong shape for the head. Make a small cut on one side near the top to make an ear. Place head onto the body. Divide remaining half into two pieces. Roll each into a 1-1/2 inch rope for the legs. Brush legs with egg and then roll in poppy seeds. Place legs onto the body. Brush the rest of the sheep with egg. Sprinkle poppy seeds on the face. Sprinkle the body with grated parmesan cheese. Press a peppercorn into face for the eye.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Let rise for 15–30 minutes. Bake for 15 minutes or until golden brown.

Your family will quickly find these "lost sheep" delicious!

Closing Prayer and blessing on the food.