

1. **Sing:** Children’s Songbook #74 “I Feel My Savior’s Love,” verses 3 & 4.

2. **Read:** Matthew 9:10–13

“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.

And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. 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.”

3. **Watch:** Chapter 5 from the animated Complete Learning System, *The Lost is Found* DVD. (Video clip is also provided for viewing online.)

4. “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.*

5. “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)

6. **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.*

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

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

8. **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.*

9. **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.*

10. **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)

11. **Ask:** Why do we celebrate when we help bring the sheep who have gone astray back to the fold? (Discuss ideas.)