

## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Adapted from <https://www.kidssundayschool.com>

### LESSON 4: GOD IS MERCIFUL

Supplies needed:

- A Bible for each parent and child (the International Children's Bible version is very kid-friendly)
- Blank paper and/or a white board, one marker per child
- Sticky notes (2" square)
- One copy of "Sticky Note Mercy" pdf for each child
- 13 3x5" index cards
- For object lessons:
  - Small glass or cup
  - 3 nickels
  - Eye dropper
  - 2-ply bathroom tissue (separated)
  - Rubber band, water

### PRAY

Include among other petitions:

1. Praise to God for the opportunity to learn together about Him.
2. A request for guidance, especially that the Word of God can be shared in a meaningful way.
3. Ask that you will each be open to learning the Word of God and to invite the Holy Spirit to be present in everyone's heart and in your home.

### ACTIVITY

PREPARATION:

Give each child the handout, sticky notes, and a marker.

WHAT TO DO:

Ask your children to come up with an expected punishment for each box on the handout. Then tell them to write the punishment on a sticky note and place it over the box. Once completed, discuss the definition of mercy (withholding a deserved punishment) in view of God's mercy on us. Ask the children to take each sticky note off and write "MERCY" in each box. Tell the children it is God's mercy that protects us from the ultimate penalty of our sin (being forever separated from Him and spending eternity in hell). Also emphasize that God's mercy gives us more time to repent, ask for forgiveness, and enter into a relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Increased-Difficulty Option: Ask your children to come up with additional ways we sin against God. Then discuss how God uses mercy in each scenario.

## MEMORY WORK

**"You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy." Micah 7:18b NIV**

### PREPARATION:

Write each word of the verse on a separate index card. Hide the cards throughout the room or house.

### WHAT TO DO:

Read the verse out loud at least twice with your children before allowing them to search for the cards. Ask them to work together to put the cards in order. Once the verse is complete take out words one at a time and take turns saying the verse including the missing word.

PRAISE MUSIC - use these or choose your own

[Love One Another animated](#)

[Show Me your Ways w actions](#)

[O Taste and See](#)

The following link is from RightNow Media, which you have a free subscription for through our church. If you have been unable to sign in, please contact Mary Kamas @ 979-777-1038, so you and your family will have access to the wonderful children's programs and adult Bible teaching.

[Praise music of Bible verses for children](#)

## SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION

(You can assign the scriptures to different children to read aloud or read them aloud yourself. However, if you choose to read them, help your children to find the verses, so they will become comfortable with their Bibles.)

### INTRODUCTION:

Tell your children about a time when you were given mercy. Emphasize that a punishment was deserved, but the person in authority chose to give mercy instead. Ask your children if they remember a time when they did something wrong and were given a second chance instead of a punishment. Help the children understand that God expects us to give mercy to others because he is so extraordinarily merciful to us.

**Read Micah 7:18** (God is incomparably merciful)

Read the passage out loud to the class. Then ask the children to state the words that describe God (merciful, forgiving, delightful, etc). Emphasize that God's mercy is not given out of obligation but because He "delights" in giving second chances. We should strive to be merciful to others because God is merciful to us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is mercy? (The withholding of a deserved punishment.)
2. How is God's view of mercy different than our "human" view of mercy? (He loves to give mercy, He doesn't stay angry forever, He continuously forgives, etc.)

**Read Ephesians 2:4-5** (Jesus is God's greatest display of mercy)

Ask a child to read the verses and comment on the main idea (God's rich mercy gave us Christ so we can be saved). Talk about the word "rich" to emphasize the endless, extraordinary reality of God's mercy, as displayed through His plan for salvation.

Discussion Questions:

1. How are we made "alive in Christ"? (Through repentance of sins and believing in Jesus as God's Son.)
2. How can we be "rich in mercy" as believers? (Forgiving when we want to hate, extending love instead of revenge, telling others about Jesus, etc.)

**Read 1 Timothy 1:15-16** (God's mercy to us will draw others to Him)

Introduce the passage by explaining that Paul, who had once sought Christians to kill them and put them in jail, is the author of this letter. Ask a child to read the verses and then tell your children to put their fingers on the words "I am the worst" in verse 15. Explain that God's mercy had so completely changed Paul's life that he thought of himself as the worst sinner in the world! Tell the class that humility is a product of understanding and thankfully receiving God's mercy in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the reason for God's mercy on Paul? (That others would see Christ's patience and also want to believe.)
2. In what specific ways has God shown you mercy? (Protection from a bad decision, the opportunity to receive salvation, forgiveness of our sins, etc.)
3. Why should we give mercy to others? (Because God gives us endless mercy!)

Conclusion:

God is extremely merciful with us, as evidenced through the death and resurrection of His son, Jesus. We should follow God's example and give mercy to others. Also, extending mercy in humble obedience has the power to draw others into a relationship with Christ.

**GOD'S FORGIVENESS OBJECT TALK**

**PREPARATION**

Assembly can be done during the Object Talk.

#### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Separate the 2-ply bathroom tissue into two thin squares. Some 2-ply facial tissue also works well. Separate and take one square, place it over the opening of the glass and secure it with the rubber band, forming something like a drum. Then place three nickels on the tissue near the center. Take approx. 1 ml water from the dropper and wet the tissue just around and next to the nickels. After a while, about 30 - 60 seconds, the tissue will break and the nickels will fall into the cup.

#### WHAT TO SAY:

God wants us to be His children and live close to Him. This cup represents God, so for this example, being in the cup would be very close to God. However, sin and fear keeps us from being with Him. This tissue will represent sin and fear. (Place one square of tissue paper over the top of the cup and fasten with the rubber band.)

These nickels represent us and the way in which sin and fear separates us from God. (Call the nickels by the names of different class members for effect.)

God wants us to trust Him, so the Holy Spirit helps us to know and trust God. (Empty water from the dropper) This water represents the Holy Spirit.

Trusting in God means believing in Him, and receiving his gift of life as in John 3:16, which says, "For God so loved the world, He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life." When we listen to the Holy Spirit and ask for forgiveness in our hearts, because of what Jesus did on the cross, God will forgive us and we can live forever with Him. Sometimes this happens when we are young, sometimes when we are older, but if we put our trust in God, and listen to the Holy Spirit, it will happen.

#### APPLICATION

Help the children evaluate their willingness to give mercy to others by thinking about the following questions:

1. How does it feel to receive mercy?
2. How does it feel to refuse giving mercy to someone else?
3. When was the last time I gave mercy to another person?
4. What can I do to have a more merciful heart?

Support the children by admitting that mercy is challenging because we are imperfect and sinful. However, when we pray, read the Bible, and rely on God's guidance, we will be better equipped and have an increasing desire to extend mercy to others.

#### CLOSE IN PRAYER