

The Mercy of God in the Bible

Warm Up

Can you recall a time when your parents showed you mercy instead of punishment or a telling off? What had you done? Why did they show mercy? How was justice served if you weren't punished?

Background and context

In Scripture, mercy is God's compassionate response to human need, weakness, sin, and suffering. Mercy is not merely withholding punishment; it is God's active love reaching toward undeserving people. In the Old Testament, mercy is often connected to God's covenant love, kindness, and compassion. In the New Testament, mercy is fully revealed through Jesus Christ, who brings forgiveness, healing, and salvation.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

A different format this week! I know it's change, but try to cope!

1. God's Mercy Is Part of His Character

Read: Exodus 34:6, Psalm 103:8, Psalm 145:8-9, Lamentations 3:22-23.

Read: Ephesians 2:4, Titus 3:5, 1Peter 1:3, Luke 6:36

1. What do the Old and New Testaments teach about the character of God's mercy?
2. How does knowing that mercy is part of God's nature change the way you approach Him after failure?

2. God's Mercy Forgives Sin

Read: Psalm 51:1, Nehemiah 9:17, Micah 7:18-19, Isaiah 55:7

Read: Ephesians 1:7, Luke 18:13-14, John 8:1-11, Luke 19:1-10

3. How did Old Testament characters experience God's mercy?
4. Why is repentance often connected to receiving mercy?

3. God's Mercy Is Available to All Who Call on Him

Read: Psalm 145:9, Jonah 3:10, Joel 2:13, Psalm 86:5

Read: Romans 10:13, Luke 15:11-32, Acts 10:34-35, Romans 11:32

5. Do you truly believe God's mercy is available to every person, including those who seem far from Him?
6. Why do non-believers find the concept of God's mercy so hard to accept?

4. God's People Are Called to Show Mercy

Read: Micah 6:8, Proverbs 14:21, Zechariah 7:9, Hosea 6:6

Read: Matthew 5:7, Luke 10:25-37, James 2:13, Colossians 3:12

7. In what practical ways can Christians show mercy to others?
8. Who in your life needs mercy from you today? (personal reflection, no need to share)

5. The Ultimate Display of Mercy: Jesus Christ

Read: Isaiah 53:5, John 3:16-17, Romans 5:8, 1 Peter 2:24, Hebrews 2:17

9. How does Jesus reveal God's mercy more fully than any previous biblical figure?
10. How does the cross demonstrate both God's justice and His mercy?
11. What is the biggest impact of God's mercy in your life?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.