

# GOD PROVIDES MERCY AND GRACE

## STORY: REDEMPTION

### BIG TRUTH: GOD PROVIDES MERCY AND GRACE

Psalm 86:15; Micah 7:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:18-6:1; Ephesians 2:1-5; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Peter 1:3-5

### BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 5:8

*"But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

### BIG IDEAS

- Mercy is God not giving us the punishment we do deserve.
- Grace is God choosing to lavish on us gifts we do not deserve.
- God can show us mercy and grace because of Jesus.

### BIBLE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 9

David sought to show kindness to any of Saul's descendants because of Saul's son, Jonathan. Jonathan had been a faithful friend to David and even though Saul did not deserve to have his descendants blessed by David, David showed grace and mercy to them just as God shows us grace and mercy by sending Jesus to pay our sin debt.

### STORY: REDEMPTION

Thankfully, God does not just leave us in the broken world, but is repairing the brokenness through His Son. From the very beginning of time, God promised He would fix creation, and He kept His promise by sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Jesus came to live on the earth and willingly died on the cross so that sin's power over creation would be broken forever.

### BIG AIMS



#### Every child should know that:

- God provides mercy and grace through Jesus
- Mercy is when God does not give us what we deserve; grace is when God gives us what we do not deserve



#### Every child should feel:

- Awe at God's goodness in His mercy and grace to us



#### Every child should:

- Give thanks because God is merciful and gracious to us



#### Every child should want:

- To accept God's gifts of mercy and grace that He extends to us through Jesus

### FAMILY DEVOTION: MERCIFUL SAVIOR

That God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt is a great example of His great mercy to us. We do not deserve to have our sin debt paid for us, but God shows us mercy by sending His Son to pay it for us.

**BIBLE VERSE: Romans 5:8**

*"But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

**God's mercy and grace are undeserved.**

- There is no good person because we are all born with sinful hearts.
- Our hearts are sinful and broken.
- We are born with a broken heart that leads us to continue sinning.
- We can do nothing to deserve God's mercy and grace.
- We cannot work hard enough or be good enough to earn grace and mercy.

**God's mercy and grace are giving us what we haven't earned and do not deserve.**

- We deserve death, but God shows us mercy by not giving us what we deserve.
- We do not deserve to have our brokenness fixed, but God shows us mercy and fixes our brokenness.
- God did not wait for us to be good enough before He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt.
- God sent Jesus while we were sinners, while our hearts were broken.
- God doesn't wait for us to be good enough people now before He offers us salvation.
- He offers us salvation in spite of our brokenness and sinfulness.

**Jesus died for sinners as an act of mercy and grace.**

- Jesus was sinless. He never sinned while He lived on earth.
- He was not broken and separated from God, yet He chose to be like man, taking on our sin and separation.
- He did this and died for us so we could be made new again.
- He showed us mercy and grace by coming to earth to be like us when we were undeserving of it.
- Jesus died on the cross bearing our sins and paying our sin debt when He didn't deserve to die.
- He took our place and offered us grace and mercy.
- We can be made clean and new through Jesus' life and death.

**BIBLE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 9**

*David Blesses Mephibosheth*

**Opening Illustration:**

Use craft sticks or small wooden dowels to create a scepter. Cut a crown out of cardstock and connect the ends and then attach it to the top of the scepter. Before attaching it, allow the children to decorate their crowns. Next, attach streamers to the scepter. Talk with the children about how God is the ruler of everything. He is fixing our broken creation, showing us grace and mercy and rescuing us through Jesus.

## BIG IDEA: MERCY IS GOD NOT GIVING US THE PUNISHMENT WE DO DESERVE.<sup>1</sup>

### We all deserve the punishment of death.

- Every person is born with a sinful heart, a sin nature.
- Our sin nature is inherited from Adam and Eve, the first man and woman and the first people to sin.
- Our sin nature leads us to sin against God.
- We begin to choose at an early age to reject God.
- We begin to rebel against God by rebelling against our parents as young children.
- Our hearts are broken and sinful. We rebel against God's commands and His plan from the very beginning.
- We are all sinful and separated from God.
- Saul had mistreated David and none of Saul's descendants deserved mercy from David.
- They deserved to lose their land.



Use a game spinner from a board game or create one by cutting out a large circle and an arrow and then attaching the arrow with a brad. Let the children take turns spinning the spinner. Designate a number to be the winning number. If the arrow lands on that number, ask the children to name an action and its punishment. Let the children take turns naming things and then remind them that God shows us mercy by not giving us a punishment we deserve.

### Mercy is God not giving us what we deserve.

- Even though we deserve death and punishment, God doesn't give us that.
- When we have saving faith, we are set free from that punishment.
- David didn't give Saul's descendants what they deserved.
- He could have removed them from the land, but he showed them mercy.
- He didn't give them what they deserved.
- God doesn't give us what we deserve when we have saving faith.
- We could be separated from God forever, but God doesn't make us stay that way.
- He made a way for us to be with Him again.

*How did God show us mercy? (He didn't give us the death that we deserve.)*

1. Titus 3:5: God is rich in mercy and He showed this mercy to us when He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt. We deserved death, but God gave us life instead.

## BIG IDEA: GRACE IS GOD CHOOSING TO LAVISH ON US GIFTS WE DO NOT DESERVE.<sup>2</sup>

*How do you feel when you receive a gift you weren't expecting?  
(Answers may vary, but most might be, surprised, excited, happy.)*

### No one is worthy of God's grace.

- Because we are all sinful, no one deserves God's grace.
- We do not deserve to receive the gift of salvation, to have our sins forgiven.
- Mephibosheth did not deserve David's grace.
- David showed him grace, however, when he gave Mephibosheth his grandfather's land.
- God shows us grace by forgiving our sins.
- God gave us the gift of freedom from our sin.
- We no longer have to be held captive by our sin.



Bring in a large piece of paper and several markers. Tape the paper to the wall or board. Next, ask the children to take turns saying something nice about each person in class. Spend some time naming nice things about each child and then remind the children that God lavishes gifts of grace on us just like you lavished praise on your classmates.

### God chose to send Jesus for us when we did not deserve it.

- Mephibosheth was part of Saul's family and Saul had mistreated David.
- Mephibosheth did not deserve to have land given to him or to be treated as one of David's sons.
- David lavished grace on Mephibosheth.
- He treated him like he was part of David's family. He gave him privileges and position when Mephibosheth had done nothing to deserve it.
- We don't deserve to be treated as God's children, or given so many blessings.
- God shows us grace by giving us the great things we don't deserve.
- He protects us, cares for us, gives us even the little things that our hearts desire.

*How does God lavish gifts of grace upon us? (He cares for us and treats us like one of His own. He doesn't give us what we deserve.)*

2. Romans 3:23-24: God doesn't show us grace because we deserve it. He gives us salvation and declares us righteous through the grace of the life and death of Jesus Christ.

**BIG IDEA: GOD CAN SHOW US MERCY AND GRACE BECAUSE OF JESUS.<sup>3</sup>****God did not leave us in our sin.**

- God could not show us grace and mercy if Jesus did not make a way for Him to.
- God is holy and just and He does not show us grace and mercy based on us alone.
- He sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the sin debt we owed so that HE could show us grace and mercy.
- David did not show Mephibosheth mercy and grace because of Saul or anything that Mephibosheth did.
- David showed Mephibosheth mercy and grace because he wanted to.
- He showed Mephibosheth mercy and grace because Jonathan, Saul's son, had made a way for David to show mercy and grace.
- Jonathan had been a faithful friend to David and David honored Mephibosheth because of Jonathan's friendship.

**Jesus is the reason God shows us mercy and grace.**

- Without Jesus, we would not receive mercy and grace from God.
- We do not deserve grace and mercy and there is nothing we can do to earn it.
- God shows us grace and mercy through Jesus.
- Jesus lived a sinless life as a man and then He died in our place for our sins.
- Through Jesus' death we receive forgiveness for our sins.
- When we turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus, we experience God's mercy and grace.
- Jesus is the way we gain access to God. His life and death make a way for us to be forgiven.



Using small square pieces of paper, write the words "The Way" on one side and the names of different people on the other side. On one piece of paper, write the name "Jesus." Tape these papers on the walls in the classroom. Next, ask the children to name a way that they can show grace and mercy to someone else. Help them think of ways to be merciful and gracious. When a child names a way, they get to choose a piece of paper and read the name on the back. Ask the child if the name on the back is the way in which we receive mercy and grace from God. Keep going until someone chooses the paper with "Jesus" on it.

*What did Jesus do to make a way for God to show us mercy and grace? (He took on the sin of the world and died on the cross for it.)*

3. 2 Corinthians 5:21: God made Jesus to be sin; Jesus took on the sin of man in order to make a way for God to call mankind righteous.

## HOOKS

**The Scale of Justice**

Bring in a small scale, a brown paper bag, and small pebbles or marbles. Place the paper bag on the scale. The scale should remain at zero. Tell the children that the pebbles or marbles represent our sin. Help them think of ways we all sin and each time they name a sin, place a pebble in a brown paper bag. Tell them that in order for a person to be good and just, the scale has to remain on zero. Each time a pebble or marble is placed in the bag, the scale should go up. Lead them in a discussion about how even though we are unjust, God still shows us mercy. Remove all the pebbles and place the bag on the scale. Show the children how when our sin is removed the scale is on zero again.



- No one is deserving of God's mercy, but He still shows us mercy.
- Our sin makes us undeserving of God's mercy, but He sent Jesus to take away our sin. He showed us great mercy in sending Jesus.
- God showed us mercy by not giving us what we deserve.

**Mercy Triumphs Judgment**

Bring in a toy sword that is labeled MERCY and several empty 2-liter bottles that are labeled JUDGMENT. Have each child take turns "triumphing" over judgment by knocking the 2-liter bottles down with MERCY (the sword). Lead them in a discussion about how God's mercy triumphed over judgment when He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt.

- No one deserved God's mercy. We deserved His judgment instead.
- God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt and when He did, God's mercy triumphed over judgment.
- We no longer have to face judgment if we turn away from our sins and trust in God.