

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

MERCIFUL SAVIOR

Help your child create a firefighter's hat using cardstock, or a doctor's stethoscope using felt and string. Talk with your child about how firefighters and doctors help save people from death. Remind them that Jesus is truly our Savior because He paid our sin debt and saved us from an eternal death. Firefighters and doctors save people without asking for the people to pay for it, Jesus pays our sin debt for us without asking us to pay for it.

DISCOVER IT: (Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)

2 Samuel 9.

THINK ABOUT IT: (Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)

Saul was Israel's very first earthly king, but he was not a faithful and good king. He disobeyed God a lot and when God told Saul that none of his descendants, or sons would be king after him, Saul got angry. God told Saul that David would be king instead. Saul was jealous of David and he tried many times to kill David, but he never succeeded. Saul died and David became king of Israel. David had a lot of power because he was the king of all of Israel. He could have sent Saul's descendants out of the land. He could have mistreated them like Saul mistreated him. They didn't deserve David's kindness, yet David showed one of Saul's descendants great kindness. Mephibosheth was Jonathan's son. Jonathan was Saul's son and Jonathan had been a faithful friend to David. Jonathan even willingly gave up his right to be king in order for David to be king. David chose to honor Mephibosheth. He gave Mephibosheth land and let Mephibosheth eat at the royal table. He treated Mephibosheth like one of his own children. David showed great mercy and grace. He didn't have to show mercy and grace, but he chose to. God shows great mercy and grace to us by sending His Son, Jesus to pay our sin debt. Nothing we did or do ever earned us the right to receive God's mercy and grace. God didn't condemn those who believe in Him to death. Instead, He showed us mercy. God even makes us part of His family when we have saving faith because He shows us grace. God is kind and loving and He made a way for us to be with Him through His mercy and grace.

TALK ABOUT IT: (Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)

- Why did David not have to show Mephibosheth mercy and grace? (Saul had mistreated David and Mephibosheth was Saul's grandson).
- How did David show Mephibosheth mercy and grace? (He gave him land and treated him like he was part of David's family).
- How does God show us mercy and grace? (He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt so we can have our sins forgiven.)



As a family, memorize Romans 5:8 by making up a song to sing with the verse.

Create a Mercy/Judgment Chart as a family. List out the consequence or "judgment" for misbehavior or disobedience and then list a way to show mercy. Talk with your child about how God shows us mercy and He sent His Son to pay our sin debt.



Plan a special day for your child. The day should include some of your child's favorites, such as favorite place to eat/favorite food, favorite place to visit, later bedtime, etc. Talk with your child at the end of the day about the special day. Tell him or her that the day was an act of grace by you. They have done nothing to earn the day; you just want to show them grace and give them something they don't deserve. Remind them that God shows us grace by giving us Jesus to pay our sin debt.

Spend some time this week during the morning praying with your child and thanking God for showing us mercy and grace.