

GOD'S MERCY IS GIVEN THROUGH JESUS

STORY: REDEMPTION / YEAR: HOPE

BIG TRUTH: GOD'S MERCY IS GIVEN THROUGH JESUS

John 3:16-18; Romans 5:6-11; Titus 3:3-7; 1 John 4:10-11

BIBLE VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:4-5

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved."

BIG IDEAS

- We are dead in our sin deserving God's righteous judgment.
- In His love God chose to extend mercy to those who do not deserve it.
- God's mercy is on display through the sinless sacrifice of Jesus in our place.

BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 12

God is a God full of mercy. He showed His mercy to the Israelites by passing over their houses if they were marked with the blood of a lamb. This day of mercy is called the Passover and it reminds us of God's great mercy to all in sending His Son, Jesus, to save the world.

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



KNOW

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



FEEL

Every child should feel:

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



DO

Every child should:

- Give thanks because God is merciful and gracious to us



WANT

Every child should want:

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

FAMILY DEVOTION: UNDESERVED MERCY

No one deserves God's mercy. No one is worthy to receive God's blessing or be saved, yet God shows mercy to all who believe in His Son, Jesus.

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"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved."

God's love for us is very great.

- God's love is perfect.
- God's love is true.
- God loves us so much that He made us alive in Jesus.
- God loves us so much that He was willing to sacrifice His only Son that we might be saved from our sin.

God's mercy compels Him to offer us salvation.

- We are all dead in our sins.
- We are all spiritually dead and spiritually blind.
- We all have a sin nature that rebels against God.
- We reject Him and rebel against His commands.
- None of us seeks God or desires to please Him.
- Even though we are sinful, God shows us great mercy because of His love.

God shows His love by sending Jesus.

- We are made alive through Jesus.
- When we believe that Jesus died for our sins and that He is our Savior, we are made new.
- God makes us new, gives us a new heart and heals our spiritual blindness.
- We are all captive to our sin before we believe, but God sets us free through Jesus.
- There is no other way to be redeemed except through Jesus.
- God's mercy is seen in His gift of Jesus to the world.

BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 12

The Passover

Opening Illustration:

Give each child a blank piece of paper and then small strips of paper. Ask the children to create a cross out of the strips of paper. Use tape or glue to attach the cross to the blank piece of paper. Next, give the children stickers and markers to decorate their crosses. Talk with the children about how Jesus is the way that God fixes our brokenness and takes away our separation from Him.

GOD'S MERCY IS GIVEN THROUGH JESUS

BIG IDEA: WE ARE DEAD IN OUR SIN, DESERVING GOD'S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT.¹

Our rebellious heart leads us to sin against God.

- Our hearts are rebellious against God.
- We seek to please ourselves instead of pleasing God.
- We believe lies and make choices that dishonor God.
- The Egyptians held the Israelites captive and abused them as slaves.
- The Egyptians did not serve God or obey His commands.
- Pharaoh refused to release the Israelites even though God's servant, Moses, asked him many times.
- God sent many plagues to warn Pharaoh and the Egyptians that His judgment was coming.
- Our hearts are like Pharaoh's. We refuse to do what God commands because we seek to please ourselves instead of God.



Bring in white coffee filters, a container of dirty water, and a towel. Show the white coffee filter to the children. Tell them it represents what mankind was like before Adam and Eve sinned. Next, dip the filter in the dirty water and place it on the towel. Tell them that we are dead in our sin like the filter.

God is holy and His judgment is righteous.

- The Egyptians were punished for not listening to God.
- Anyone who did not follow God's command to place the blood of a lamb over their doorpost would lose their firstborn child.
- God's judgment is not unfair because He is holy and perfectly just.
- He had warned Pharaoh and the Egyptians with several plagues before the Passover, but they had not listened.
- God is wiser than any other and His ways are right.
- We deserve God's judgment because we are sinful.

Our hearts are dead because of our sin.

- Just like Pharaoh's heart hardened against God, our hearts harden because they are dead in our sin.
- Our sin causes us to reject God who is the giver and sustainer of life.
- Our hearts lead us away from God and cause spiritual death inside of us.
- We deserve God's judgment because of our sinful, dead hearts.

What do we deserve? (We deserve God's judgment because of our sin.)

1. Ephesians 2:1: We are dead in our sin; we are separated from God, the source of true life.

GOD'S MERCY IS GIVEN THROUGH JESUS

BIG IDEA: IN HIS LOVE GOD CHOSE TO EXTEND MERCY TO THOSE WHO DO NOT DESERVE IT.²

God's love is perfect and He shows mercy perfectly.

- Because of our sinful hearts, we do not deserve God's mercy.
- God loves us even in our sinful state.
- Even though we do not naturally seek to please God or even love Him in return, He loves us.
- In His love for us, He chooses to show us mercy.
- God showed mercy to the Israelites and even the Egyptians by offering them a way to escape His judgment.
- If they obeyed His command and placed the blood of a lamb over their doorpost, their firstborn child would be saved.
- They did not deserve His mercy, but He showed them mercy anyway.



Give the children craft sticks, glue, and markers. Help them create a craft stick doorpost. Ask them to place a red mark over the doorpost like the Israelites would have done. Remind them that God passed over the Israelites and rescued them.

Our sin nature keeps us from deserving God's mercy.

- We are all born with a sin nature.
- Because of our sin nature, we rebel and sin against God.
- Our rebellion takes us farther away from God.
- Our hearts lead us to doubt God.
- We choose not to listen to God and reject His commands.
- God still shows us mercy by making a way for us to be saved.
- God made a way for the Israelites to be saved by offering them mercy instead of judgment.
- God makes a way for us to experience mercy instead of judgment even though we do not deserve it.

What does God show us even though we do not deserve it? (He shows us love and mercy.)

2. Psalm 86:5: God is full of mercy and love. His mercy and love extend to us through Jesus.

GOD'S MERCY IS GIVEN THROUGH JESUS

BIG IDEA: GOD'S MERCY IS ON DISPLAY THROUGH THE SINLESS SACRIFICE OF JESUS IN OUR PLACE.³

Jesus is perfect and holy.

- Jesus is the only perfect man.
- He came to earth and lived a sinless life.
- He never rebelled against God or disobeyed God.
- No one else is perfect like Jesus.
- No other person lives a sinless life.

Jesus did not deserve to die in our place.

- Jesus is innocent and perfect.
- He never owed a sin debt so He did not deserve to die.
- Jesus went to the cross in our place.
- He was our substitute.
- He died the death we owed because of God's great love for us.
- God's mercy on us was sacrificing Jesus in our place.

Jesus' death washes us clean.

- Jesus died in our place.
- He took our sin debt and paid the price for us to be free.
- The Israelites sacrificed a lamb or goat in the place of their firstborn child.
- The animal sacrifice took the place of the child, just as Jesus took the place of every person who believes.
- Jesus is the example of God's love for us. His death on the cross shows us how much God loves us.

How is God's love shown to us? (When Jesus died on the cross, God's love was shown to us.)



Bring in a plate and several small snacks, such as pretzels, gummies, carrot sticks, and etc. Fix each child a plate and then give them the option of exchanging one thing for another. Remind them that Jesus took our place on the cross.

3. 1 Peter 2:24: God shows us love by sacrificing Jesus in our place.

GOD'S MERCY IS GIVEN THROUGH JESUS

HOOKS



The Passover Lamb

Create a Passover lamb using cotton balls, cardstock and craft sticks. Cut out a lamb's face using black cardstock. Glue the cotton balls to a round piece of cardstock and then attach to the craft sticks. Talk with the children about the first Passover and how Jesus is our Passover lamb.



God's Love Passes Over Us

Bring in a blanket or large towel. Have the children pass under the blanket or towel like God's judgment passed over the houses with the lamb's blood. Talk with the children about how Jesus is the way God shows His love to us.

