**A group of trees in a forest

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**Day 1**

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| **Faith Fact**  I can accept God’s forgiveness.  **Faith Verse**  2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)  Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!  **Question of the Day: Why should we show mercy to others?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** John 8:1–9

Some religious leaders brought a woman caught sinning to Jesus. The Law said her life could be ended because of what she had done. The leaders came before Jesus to test Him and see what He would say should happen. Instead of responding to the Pharisees’ anger and accusation, Jesus stayed mostly silent and wrote in the dirt. After Jesus told the religious leaders that the person who had never sinned should be the first one to throw a stone at her, they all left.

Jesus’ way of handling this reminded the Pharisees that they needed to show mercy. What is mercy? Mercy is showing another person forgiveness or compassion when they have done something wrong. Maybe you’ve seen someone break a rule, and you want them to be punished. But like Jesus, Christians need to see people as more than rule breakers; we need to see them as people who deserve the kind of mercy we have received. Jesus loves others just like He loves us. If His forgiveness has changed us for the better, we should offer that same mercy to others.

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** What was the punishment for the woman caught in sin?  **Answer 1.** Her life could be taken by stoning. (John 8:5) |
| **Question 2.** What is the definition of mercy in your own words?  **Answer 2.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 3.** Has someone ever shown mercy to you? Explain.  **Answer 3.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 4.** Why did all the Pharisees put down their stones and leave?  **Answer 4.** They couldn’t respond to Jesus’ challenge. (John 8:7, 9) |
| **Question 5.** Why should we show mercy to others?  **Answer 5.** We should show mercy to others because God has shown mercy to us. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Jesus, I am so thankful for the mercy that You have shown to me. I know I didn’t earn it or deserve it. Help me to see others through Your eyes and show them mercy when they do wrong. Help me to see others as children of God created in His image. They are special and important to You, so they should be special and important to me, too. I love You, Jesus. Amen.

**Day 2**

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| **Faith Fact**  I can accept God’s forgiveness.  **Faith Verse**  2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)  Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!  **Question of the Day: How has God shown us mercy?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** John 8:9–11; Romans 6:23

After her accusers were gone, the woman caught in sin was still there with Jesus. We can imagine that she felt shocked, confused, and probably relieved. But Jesus didn’t stop at driving her accusers away. He offered the woman His life-changing mercy. He didn’t condemn her either, and He told her to “go and sin no more.” Jesus offered her the gift of a new life, one that she now could begin because of His mercy.

Jesus offers this same gift of mercy to us. The Bible says that we all deserve death because of our sin, but God has shown us mercy through Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross. This gift is better than anything we could ever imagine. None of us can earn it by good deeds or our own wisdom. The good news about Jesus is a gift of hope for our salvation and a new life in Him. We get to receive this undeserved forgiveness just by accepting His gift.

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** What did Jesus tell the woman about her sin?  **Answer 1.** “Neither do I [condemn you]. Go and sin no more.” (John 8:11) |
| **Question 2.** How was the woman shown mercy?  **Answer 2.** Jesus didn’t condemn her. |
| **Question 3.** Have you accepted the gift of salvation? Talk about the mercy God has shown to you.  **Answer 3.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 4.** How is mercy like a gift?  **Answer 4.** None of us can earn it by good deeds or our own wisdom. |
| **Question 5.** How has God shown us mercy?  **Answer 5.** God sent Jesus to die so we could receive salvation. |

**Pray about It**

Dear God, what a wonderful gift I have through Jesus, Your Son. Thank You for the sacrifice He made on the Cross. Thank You for Your mercy and grace. Help me to live in the mercy that You have given me and to also give that mercy to others. Amen.

**Day 3**

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| **Faith Fact**  I can accept God’s forgiveness.  **Faith Verse**  2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)  Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!  **Question of the Day: What can you do to remind yourself of Jesus’ mercy every day?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Lamentations 3:22–24

What are your thoughts when you start a new day? When we imagine the morning, we probably think of birds chirping, the sun creeping up, and throwing back warm covers. In those moments, we should remind ourself of this important truth: God has given us mercy, and we can live in thankfulness. The Bible says that God’s mercies are new every morning. This means that we can begin our day with hope and gratitude.

As we begin each day, let’s remind ourself that God has been merciful to us. Some days, this can be difficult if we are late for school, forget a homework assignment, or if there is a thunderstorm on our big game day. The kind of day we are having doesn’t matter. When we wake up and say, “God, thank You for Your mercy on my life,” we remember the gift Jesus gave us. Starting the day with gratitude makes it harder for unkind thoughts, bad attitudes, and sin to creep into our day.

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** When are God’s mercies new?  **Answer 1.** Every morning (Lamentations 3:23) |
| **Question 2.** How do you normally begin your day?  **Answer 2.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 3.** Why is it important to remember God’s mercy at the beginning of the day?  **Answer 3.** Starting the day with gratitude makes it harder for unkind thoughts, bad attitudes, and sin to creep into our day. |
| **Question 4.** In what ways has God shown you mercy?  **Answer 4.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 5.** What can you do to remind yourself of Jesus’ mercy every day?  **Answer 5.** Answers will vary. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Jesus, thank You for Your mercy that begins new every morning. Help me to start each day by praising You. Please help my heart be filled with the hope of Your Word, and let that guide me through everything I say and do throughout the day. You are the God who gives the best gifts. May I always be grateful for the mercy that You have given me! Amen.

**Day 4**

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| **Faith Fact**  I can accept God’s forgiveness.  **Faith Verse**  2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)  Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!  **Question of the Day: Why does the Father give us such undeserved mercy?** |

**Read about It**

**Read:** Luke 15:11–32

In the Book of Luke, we read one of Jesus’ most famous stories, or parables. The Parable of the Lost Son is the story of a son who asked for his inheritance from his father early and wasted it. The son lived such a wild life that when he ran out of money, he even considered eating pig’s food when he was hungry. He decided to go back home, but he didn’t think his father would accept him. But when his father saw him coming, he ran to his son, hugged him tightly, and threw him a banquet.

This story is a picture of God’s mercy to us. When we ask Jesus to be the Lord of our life, we will receive His mercy. Even when we make bad choices, God is waiting for us to turn back to Him. When we turn away from our sin and toward God, He rejoices and celebrates. Why does He do this? Because God loves us so much!

**Talk about It**

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| **Question 1.** What did the father do when the son returned home?  **Answer 1.** He ran to him, hugged him, kissed him, and threw him a banquet. (Luke 15:20, 23) |
| **Question 2.** Why do you think the son went his own way?  **Answer 2.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 3.** How do we “go back home” to God?  **Answer 3.** We turn away from what we have done that is wrong and go to God for forgiveness. |
| **Question 4.** Have you ever felt that God wouldn’t forgive you for something? Explain.  **Answer 4.** Answers will vary. |
| **Question 5.** Why does the Father give us such undeserved mercy?  **Answer 5.** God gives us mercy because He loves us. |

**Pray about It**

Dear Father, Your mercy is so amazing and great. I don’t deserve it, and I will never earn it. I never want to waste the mercy that You have given me. Help me to always return home if I wander away. Forgive me when I have sinned and run away from You. I accept Your gift of forgiveness and mercy. I love You. Amen.