



# Merciful

## MAIN IDEA

- **God is kind to undeserving sinners.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*  
—Psalm 145:8

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 145:8-9
- 2) Luke 15:11-20
- 3) Romans 2:4-5
- 4) Titus 3:5a
- 5) 2 Peter 3:9



## LESSON SUMMARY

That God is merciful to sinners who are, moment by moment, deserving of His wrath is truly amazing. More marvelous is His saving mercy extended to those whom He has called to be His people. It is a mercy that is a gift—unearned and unmerited by anything that we have done. How thankful we should be that we have a heavenly Father that seeks out wayward children, and then, in His great mercy, extends to us His steadfast love and forgiveness.

In this lesson, we examined the parable of the lost son in order to help children understand that, though we all deserve God's wrath because of our sin, God is merciful to sinners who come to Him with hearts that are truly sorry. Furthermore, we stressed that God's mercy is a gift—you cannot earn it or do enough good things to outweigh the bad things you have done. Finally, we pointed out that all people experience a measure of God's mercy. None of us deserve any good thing from God, yet He is kind to undeserving sinners. And the greatest mercy we need from God is forgiveness for our sin.

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that your child would see his or her desperate need for God's mercy and forgiveness, and see God as a merciful Father, running toward wayward sinners with arms outstretched.*
- *that God would be at work, breaking down any notions of self-sufficiency and salvation by works.*

## AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review the story of the lost son from Luke 15:11-20. **In what ways is God like the father in the story? In what ways are you and I like the son? Have you done anything this week that is sinful? Do you think that doing things your own way, like the son, will make you happy? What did he find out? What would Jesus want you to do? Review Luke 15:18-20. Have a time of prayer together.**
- **When you are really hungry, what do you constantly think about and crave? What do you go and look for? In the Bible story, what made the son want to go home to his father? Explain that, as much as being hungry makes us crave food, even more so, our sin should**

make us crave God's mercy. How might a person show that he really wants God's mercy and forgiveness?

- What is the right way to respond when someone is merciful to you? In what ways has God shown you mercy? Why is God's mercy even more important than the mercy we receive from

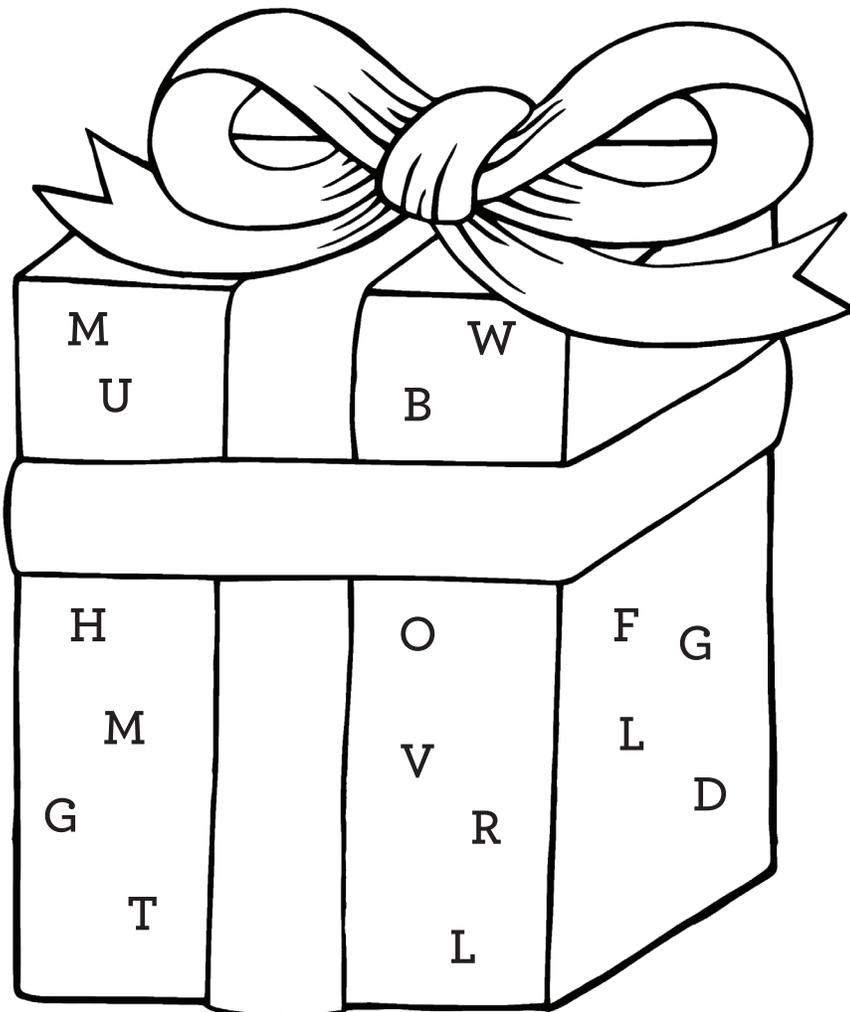
parents or from others? Have you thanked God for His mercy? How could you show God your thankfulness? If you are not thankful, what is keeping you from feeling thankful? Is there anything you could do to help change your attitude toward God's mercy so that you are more thankful?

**ACTION STEP**

This week, with help from a parent, wrap a box in special gift wrap. Add a bow and ribbon. Make a sign for the box: God is merciful. Place the box on the dinner table. Before every meal, encourage every family member to say one way that God has been merciful to them.

**MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY**

God's mercy is a special gift. Find the letters on the wrapping paper to complete the verse. Then color the gift with fancy colors to remind you of God's mercy.



T\_\_e LO\_\_D  
 is \_\_racio\_\_s  
 and \_\_erciful,  
 slo\_\_ t\_\_  
 an\_\_er and  
 a\_\_oun\_\_ing  
 in s\_\_ead\_\_ast  
 \_\_o\_\_e.  
 —Psa\_\_m 145:8