

Hey parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles—anyone wanting to help the kids you know learn more about who God is and how to JOIN Him as He redeems the world!

We have posted this information to serve as a guide and tool for you to teach truth to your kids, young or old, at home.

ARE YOU A MIDDLE SCHOOLER?:
scroll down and complete the MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILY section for each post.

DON'T MISS IT!: Just for fun . . .check out the Fun Photo Challenge in the SNAP IT section below!

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

—A.W. Tozer



Adventure Mountain Families:

LESSONS FOR MAY:

**I AM GOD, THERE IS NO OTHER, THERE IS NONE LIKE ME—
ISAIAH 46:9-10**

**BELIEVE! (GOD IS REAL)
DISCOVER (GOD IS KNOWABLE)
ENJOY (GOD IS PERSONAL)**

**May 24: GOD'S GRACE & MERCY
GOD'S GOODNESS & LOVE**



TEACH IT

Have each family member talk about the best gift they ever received. Tell **WHY** they received the gift (Christmas, Birthday, just a surprise, etc.) Introduce and discuss an important gift Jesus gives us. **GRACE.**

Grace IS getting something we DON'T deserve—a gift we didn't earn. See if they can think of a gift they received that they didn't deserve to get or had not earned (by having a birthday, celebrating a holiday, etc.)

Introduce a second important gift Jesus gives us. **MERCY.** *Mercy is NOT getting something we DO deserve.* Kids usually understand this more clearly in the context of not getting a punishment they “deserve;” a deserved consequence for a choice or action. See if they can think of a time, when they were shown mercy. If children are capable, ask them the following question:

“If mercy is a GIFT of not getting what we deserve, what would the gift TAG say?” Maybe play a game like hangman to help them discover the word “forgiveness.” Forgiveness is always connected with mercy. When God gave us the gift of mercy, we received His forgiveness. What did he forgive us for? (our sins). Sharing a story of a gift of mercy with the gift tag of forgiveness from your own life would be a great illustration they would definitely remember.

Read Ephesians 2:4-5. Have children listen, maybe raise their hands when they hear the words GRACE and MERCY:

“ 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.”

Re-read the passage, and this time ask them to listen for *why* God gives us these 2 wonderful gifts. “Because of the great love with which He loved us . . .” God’s gift of MERCY AND GRACE are love gifts. During the week, make daily assignments for each child, who is old enough, to give someone a grace gift or a mercy gift. Maybe at dinner or before bed, have each one share how they copied Jesus and showed mercy and grace to others.

Under the READ IT section below, we have chosen Bible stories that highlight the gifts of grace and mercy. You could read one a day. After each story, ask: which gift was given in this story, grace or mercy; or both??!



CREATE IT!

This week's craft is a simple gift box. You can get creative with the supplies you use, but the goal is to make a gift box (color, decorate, wrap with wrapping paper, etc.) so you can be reminded of the gifts of mercy and grace! You can use old cereal boxes, tissue boxes- any type of box!



READ IT!

From the Jesus Storybook Bible:

“Running Away” Luke 15

“The man who didn’t have any friends (none)” Luke 19:1-10

“A New Way to See” Acts 9: 1-22



WATCH IT!

Watch this short clip about The prodigal son from Luke 15

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJgROx4wFKM>

Watch this short clip about Zacchaeus from Luke 19

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fe7dTNID6h8>

Watch this short clip about Paul from Acts 9

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IlXFy3zjJh4>



SNAP It

Fun Photo Challenge: Snap a picture of your creation! Then, send it to mary@fbccs.org



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES:

LESSONS FOR MAY:

I AM GOD, THERE IS NO OTHER, THERE IS NONE LIKE ME— ISAIAH 46:9-10

**BELIEVE! (GOD IS REAL)
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A FAMILY OR GROUP DISCUSSION

--Or—

Truths for you to consider on your own!

--If you're working on your own, grab a sheet of paper, notebook or journal and write down answers to the following questions. If you're working in a group, go around and share answers out loud:

1. What is the definition of grace?
2. What is the definition of mercy?

Check your answers against the following:

Grace IS getting something we DON'T deserve—a gift we didn't earn. Can you think of a gift you received that you didn't deserve to get or had not earned (by having a birthday, celebrating a holiday, etc.)?

Mercy is NOT getting something we DO deserve. We usually can understand this concept more clearly in the context of not getting a punishment we “deserve;” a deserved consequence for a choice or action. Can you think of a time, when you were shown mercy?

Consider the following statement: *“If mercy is a GIFT of not getting what we deserve, what would the TAG on the gift say?—FORGIVENESS”.* Forgiveness is always a part of mercy. When God gave us the gift of mercy, we received His forgiveness.

In your own words, describe how forgiveness is always a component of mercy. Look back on your paper at the gift you described when asked for an example of a time you were shown mercy. How was forgiveness connected to the gift of mercy?

Look up and read Ephesians 2:4-10. What is the motivation for God's gifts, through Jesus, of mercy and grace? What should they produce in us?

During the week, consider the following stories from the New Testament.

--Zacchaeus from Luke 19

--Saul from Acts 6-9

--Prodigal Son—Luke 15

After each story, decide—is this an illustration of God's gift of mercy or grace; or both??!

Keep track this week of how many gifts of mercy and/or gifts of grace you can share with others (be ready to do some forgiving!). Also, keep a tally of how many mercy and grace gifts you receive!!