

# God's Mercy

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as  
**STEP 1** 

**Lesson 8****Focus:**

God is merciful.

**Lesson 8****Bible Basis:**

Genesis 6:5-14;  
Romans 2:4-5; Titus  
3:4-7; 2 Peter 3:9

**Lesson 8****Memory Verse:**

The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God  
is full of compassion. —Psalm 116:5

**To help them consider the topic of mercy, students will discuss a scholarship program in Colorado that gives previously incarcerated young people a second chance.**

**Materials:**

Internet access

**Do you think giving second chances after someone messes up is a good idea? One business is hiring people that other businesses have disqualified due to bad behavior. Let's take a look at how giving employees second chances can sometimes be good for business.**

Play the following video for your students [1:20]:

Second Chance Scholarship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33kVcXBQaTE>

➤ **This scholarship offers both money and support services for students. After the individuals receiving this scholarship complete their education, they will be eligible to join the workforce. Do you think it is merciful to hire previously incarcerated individuals or just plain risky? Explain.** (Some business owners might not want to take chances with someone with a proven record of breaking the law. Others might agree with this owner that it actually helps society by re-integrating prisoners into meaningful contributors to society.)

➤ **How does this program show mercy to young people?** (They're offered another chance, they're given resources for education and employment, etc.)

➤ **Besides these types of programs, are there other situations where it might be a good idea to give a second chance to others?** (Your students might bring up teachers who allow re-testing, coaches who put players back in the game after mistakes, parents who allow do-overs, etc.)

**When we're the ones behaving well, it's easy to preach about obedience and perfection. But when we're the one who needs mercy, our opinions can shift! Thankfully for us, we have a God who has provided a second chance for His disobedient children.**

Additional source:

<https://cdhe.colorado.gov/student-resources/colorado-second-chance-scholarship-program>

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 8 / October 20, 2024

# God's Mercy

for use as  
STEP 4 

## Lesson 8

**Focus:**

God is merciful.

## Lesson 8

**Bible Basis:**

Genesis 6:5-14;  
Romans 2:4-5; Titus  
3:4-7; 2 Peter 3:9

## Lesson 8

**Memory Verse:**

The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God  
is full of compassion. —Psalm 116:5

**Materials:**

- Paper
- Pens/pencils

In this step, you will be helping students see how they can receive mercy—and also give it to others. Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home).

**Studying God's response to evil does not give us easy answers. His holiness demands justice, but His mercy provides escape. Sometimes we receive mercy from God, but we don't offer it to others. It's a difficult thing to balance compassion with justice and only God can do it perfectly, but let's figure out how we can be a mercy RECEIVER and also a mercy GIVER.**

Allow your students to find a spot in your classroom (or, if meeting online, in their space at home) where they can concentrate. Have your students make two columns on their sheet of paper—one titled MERCY GIVER and the other titled MERCY RECEIVER.

**During this activity, you might be a MERCY GIVER and other times you might be a MERCY RECEIVER. Let's first think about being a MERCY GIVER. Try to think of a situation when you might have had the opportunity to give someone a second chance. Have you ever shown mercy to someone before?**

**Also, think about a time when you were a MERCY RECEIVER—someone showed compassion to you—or gave you a second chance, even if you didn't deserve it. This can be from your childhood or as recent as yesterday.**

Have your students jot down the incidents in the appropriate column—whether they were on the giving end or receiving end of mercy. As time allows, have them add more incidents; give any volunteers opportunity to share without using names.

When you finish, discuss these questions together.

➤ **How are human acts of mercy limited at best? How is God's mercy different from ours?** (Accept all reasonable answers. Students might talk about how easy it is for us to say we

forgive, but then react toward that person as though we haven't. Or, we might want something in exchange for the mercy shown—"you owe me one." God's mercy is real and freely given.)

➤ **Does showing compassion mean we should eliminate punishments altogether? Why not?** (God's Word tells us that the Lord disciplines the ones He loves. There are consequences that come as a result of disobedience that mercifully keep us from making that mistake again.)

➤ **Why is it so hard to show compassion to other people—especially when their punishments feel so deserved?** (Sometimes we are so concerned about how we were wronged and how our "rights" were abused that we want vindication; we want to see the person who harmed us suffer. It becomes very self-focused.)

➤ **Have you ever secretly been pleased to see someone suffer because of their bad behavior? How is that a different response from God's?** (Answers will vary.)

Before you close your lesson, encourage your students to complete their MERCY GIVER/MERCY RECEIVER list this week by recording as many ways as they can think of where they have received mercy from God. Ask them to write out a prayer on the back of the sheet thanking God for the many ways He has shown them mercy when they did not deserve it. Challenge them to commit to applying being a mercy giver to their daily life in the upcoming week.

When you are finished, pray together, thanking Jesus for the significance of His death on the cross and the extraordinary mercy He has shown to every sinner.

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