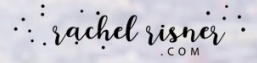


Mercy Triumphs



Key Scripture

Judah recognized them and said, "She is more righteous than I"
Genesis 38:26

Why can we show mercy?

1. God is merciful.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will give truth to Jacob and mercy to Abraham
Micah 7:19-20 NKJV

2. Jesus is merciful. (Jesus is the mercy seat)

There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the covenant law, I will meet with you.

Exodus 25:22

3. Because we have been shown mercy, we are called to be merciful.

What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God
Micah 6:8

For personal reflection or group discussion.

Get talking. Loosen up with lighthearted conversation.

- In your childhood were you ever in a situation where there was retaliation rather than mercy? Were you the victim, or the perpetrator?
- Have you been the recipient of unexpected mercy? What happened?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Reflect on Tamar's willingness to show mercy even when she was abandoned by Judah's family. What might your reaction be in her shoes?
- Rachel shared three reasons we can show mercy in the video lesson (see the notes on the left of this page). Which one did you need to hear the most?

Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

- How might meditating on the truths from this week's lessons override your tendency to hold grudges and take revenge?
- Think of someone you know who is an example of unexpected mercy. What evidence do you see in his or her life of a heart of mercy?
- Does the result of merciful living surprise you—either in the story of Oshea and Mary, Judah and Tamar (p. 124), or elsewhere? Why or why not?

Review workbook activities. (Share even more as time allows).

- On page 101 we talked about how unfair it feels when we are wronged. How has this week's learning (and seeing how God used Tamar's situation) changed your perspective on being mistreated?
- On page 120 what hypocritical "stones" did you write about? How might God be calling you to repent?

Start doing. Commit to a step, and live it out this week.

- Take a practical step towards letting go of grudges and vengeful attitudes and instead showing mercy this week—be specific with how you will cultivate a life of mercy.
- Take some quiet time for introspection and journaling. Pray that God would show you any blind spots where you need to act mercifully in response to being wronged.

For more resources to use with the Significant Bible study, visit rachelrisner.com/significantbiblestudy

