



Family Discipleship Resource

Key Point: God is merciful.

He does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

This week we learned that God is merciful. God does not give His children the punishment they deserve. We looked in Genesis at the life of Jacob as a picture of God's mercy to an undeserving sinner.

Capture discipleship moments: After dinner one evening, talk through the questions below. Anytime we open the Bible and talk about God, we need to pray and ask Him to help us because only God can teach our hearts. Pray with your family for God to give understanding and belief.

1. Today, you learned that God is merciful. What does it mean for God to be merciful?
God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.
2. Who are God's children?
Those who love and trust Jesus.
3. What were the names of the three men we learned about? **Isaac, Jacob and Esau.**
4. How were they related to each other?
Isaac was the father of Jacob and Esau; Jacob and Esau were brothers.
5. What did Jacob steal from his brother? **The blessing Esau was supposed to get from his dad.**
6. How did Jacob steal the blessing from Esau? **He dressed up like Esau and lied to his father.**
7. What happened when Esau found out about this?
He was very angry and wanted to kill his brother.
8. What did Jacob do? **He ran away because he was afraid of Esau.**
9. How does God feel about sin? **He hates it. God is holy. He is completely perfect and separate from sin. He is just. He is right to punish sin.**
10. What would you expect God to do to someone who had sinned like Jacob?
Knowing that God hates sin, you would probably expect Him to punish Jacob.

Read Genesis 28:15

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

11. Who was talking to Jacob? **The LORD**
12. What did God promise Jacob?
God promised Jacob that He would be with Jacob and that He would keep His promise.

Explain that when God appeared to Jacob, He promised to bless him in the same way He had promised to bless Abraham: with God Himself, a great land, and a big family.

13. Did Jacob deserve to be punished? **Yes, because Jacob had sinned against God and his family. He lied and took what did not belong to him.**
14. Did God punish Jacob? **No.**
15. God did not give Jacob the punishment he deserved. What did God show Jacob?
Mercy. God showed mercy to Jacob and didn't give him the punishment he deserved. In addition, He promised to bless Jacob.
16. When is a time you received mercy - when you did not get a punishment you deserved?
17. Are you guilty of sin and deserving of punishment?
Yes. We are all sinners – you, me, your parents, your teachers, etc. And because we have hearts sick with sin we all deserve death and separation from God as punishment for our sin.
18. How does God show mercy to His children, because of Jesus?
God punished Jesus for the sin of His children. Because Jesus died in their place, they can be forgiven for sin. God does not give them the punishment they deserve.

*****Additional passages for study:** Read **Psalm 103:8-13** together.

1. Are there any words in this passage that you do not recognize or understand?
2. What attributes of God do you see?
3. What do we deserve because of our sinful hearts?
4. How does God treat His children instead? *Look at verse 10.*
5. How has God shown mercy to His children through Jesus? *Look at Ephesians 2:4-5 for help.*
6. How does receiving mercy from God change the way we give mercy to others?
7. As a family, how can we show mercy to one another?

Create discipleship time: Recap by asking your kids what they learned, as they **color their Merciful Attribute Sign** for your Attribute Wall at home.

1. What is one thing you learned about God today?
God shows mercy to His children because of Jesus.
2. What is one thing you learned about yourself today?
I need God's mercy.

Pray together as a family. Ask each member of your family – parents included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Have someone pray for that person's request. Challenge them to pray for that person all week long. Parents, pray a blessing over your children as you close.

MVOTM.

But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. Psalm 59:16