

SESSION 21
GOD IS MERCIFUL (A)
Lesson Plan



RECOMMENDED READING
 Chapter 22 “God Is Merciful”

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

Mercy is a misunderstood concept in our world today. Many people think it is merely letting someone get by with wrong or evil deeds. Others think it is a tolerance for what was once considered sin. But neither of these beliefs are true mercy.

- ❓ Do you think mercy is valued in our society today? What evidence can you cite for your answer?
- ❓ How does society balance the need for punishment with the need for mercy?

Before we listen to some of Dr. Bright’s insights about God’s mercy, let’s ask the Holy Spirit to teach us how God’s mercy can impact our lives.

Lead the group in prayer.

VIDEO TEACHING SEGMENT:
GOD IS MERCIFUL (21 MINUTES)

The cue graphic on the videotape is “Lesson 11” (the video segments are divided by attributes).

Please turn to page 61 in your Study Guide and follow along on your Video Outline.

GROUP DISCUSSION (18 MINUTES)

- ❓ Which of the six points in today’s session is most meaningful to you?
- ❓ Why is compassion such an important element in extending mercy?
- ❓ Why is it difficult for us to feel the *need* for God’s mercy?
- ❓ How can we extend God’s mercy to those around us?

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

Lead the group in a closing prayer.

SESSION 21
GOD IS MERCIFUL (A)
Video Outline



“The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against Him” (Daniel 9:9).

1. God shows us mercy because it is His nature to be merciful.
(Ephesians 2:4)
2. God shows us mercy because He compassionately cares about us.
(Psalm 145:9; Isaiah 49:13)
3. God shows us mercy in our sinfulness.
(Daniel 9:9)
4. God shows us mercy as an alternative to punishment.
(Romans 2:4)
5. God shows us mercy as we are merciful to others.
(Matthew 5:7; 6:15; 18:33)
6. God shows us mercy when we ask Him for help.
(Hebrews 4:16; 13:6)

*Because God is merciful,
He forgives me of my sins when I sincerely confess them.*

RECOMMENDED READING

GOD: Discover His Character, Chapter 22 “God Is Merciful”

SESSION 22

GOD IS MERCIFUL (B)

Lesson Plan



RECOMMENDED READING

Chapter 23 “God Expects Us to Extend Mercy”

REVIEW (5 MINUTES)

Lead the group in prayer.

As we continue our study of God’s mercy, in this session we’ll be challenged to extend that mercy to those around us.

- ❓ What questions have arisen in your mind surrounding this topic?
- ❓ Why is an understanding of God’s mercy critical to our understanding of His character?

BIBLE STUDY (20 MINUTES)

Our Bible Study today focuses on the truths about the mercy of God. Let’s turn to page 62 in our Study Guide as we seek to have a greater understanding of this tender characteristic of God.

VIDEO ILLUSTRATION SEGMENT: *MERCY’S REFLECTION* (7 MINUTES)

LIFE APPLICATION (12 MINUTES)

- ❓ What thoughts and feelings did you experience during the segment on Corrie ten Boom?
- ❓ When have you experienced forgiveness as “an act of the will”?

Please turn to the Life Application section “Write It on Your Heart” on page 64 in your Study Guide. Let’s remind ourselves of God’s mercy as we read together the attribute application statement and the verses there.

Read the material in this section.

Try to memorize these verses before our next session. I also encourage you to find time to do the other exercises suggested throughout these pages. They will help you to internalize the truths of God’s mercy.

CLOSING PRAYER (1 MINUTE)

Lead the group in a closing prayer.

SESSION 22

GOD IS MERCIFUL (B)

Bible Study



1. Mercy does not seek revenge.

Read 1 Samuel 26:5–25.

- a. Why would David have been justified in killing Saul?
- b. What reasons did David give for not killing Saul?
- c. How did Saul respond to David's mercy?
- d. Is there someone in your life who deserves judgment? What would be the merciful way to deal with this person?

2. Mercy is a catalyst to change lives.

Read John 8:1–11.

- a. What had the woman done to deserve punishment? (Note: Jewish law stated that *both* the man and the woman should be stoned.)
- b. Why did her accusers leave?
- c. Why would Jesus have been justified in punishing her?
- d. What command did He give her as she left?

3. Mercy to others is rooted in our gratitude to God.

Read Matthew 18:21–35.

- a. Why did the king cancel the servant's huge debt?
- b. Why were the king and the other servants shocked by the forgiven servant's treatment of the man who owed him a small amount of money?
- c. What were the consequences of the servant's lack of mercy?
- d. What lesson did Jesus want us to learn from this parable?

SESSION 22

GOD IS MERCIFUL (B)

Life Application



WRITE IT ON YOUR HEART

Memorize the following statement and verses. As you encounter situations during this week where you need to remember that God is merciful, claim these promises by faith.

- Because God is merciful, He forgives me of my sins when I sincerely confess them.
- Daniel 9:9—“The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against Him.”
- Hebrews 4:16—“Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it.”

EXALT YOUR GOD

Meditate on the following verses and praise God for the specific ways He has shown mercy in your life.

God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so very much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead (Ephesians 2:4).

Where is another God like You, who pardons the sins of the survivors among His people? You cannot stay angry with Your people forever, because You delight in showing mercy (Micah 7:18).

REFLECT HIS IMAGE

The Word of God states in Micah 6:8, “O people, the LORD has already told you what is good, and this is what He requires: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” Do you love mercy? Are you quick to forgive? What are some of the ways you extend mercy?

Spend some time with our compassionate God and ask Him to mold you into His image to become a lover of mercy.

Life Application (continued)

COUNT ON GOD

Are you, or is someone close to you, in desperate need of God's mercy? No matter what you have done—large or small—God's mercy is sufficient. Go to Him and repent. Confess your sin, turn from it, and open your heart to His love and forgiveness. Your God of mercy will heal and restore you.

OBEY GOD

Are you having difficulty forgiving someone who has wronged you? Reread the parable of the ungrateful servant (Matthew 18:21–35). God has forgiven every sin you ever committed and any sin you will commit in the future; therefore, we must also forgive everyone who wrongs us. Obey God by going to the person who wronged you today. Forgive him and experience the joy of showing mercy.

SHARE HIS MAJESTY

What insight from this lesson meant a lot to you?

Tell a friend. If he does not know Jesus as his Savior, share the love and forgiveness offered by our gracious Lord. If he is a believer, remind him that his heavenly Father is “full of compassion and mercy” (James 5:11, NIV).

RECOMMENDED READING

GOD: Discover His Character, Chapter 23 “God Expects Us to Extend Mercy”

If you would like to download the entire GOD: Discover His Character Bible Study (which covers all the attributes) for free. You'll find it by visiting our Resources section:

<http://DiscoverGod.com/resources>

