

ABOUT TRUTH78



SAMPLE
GROWING IN
FAITH TOGETHER:
PARENT & CHILD
RESOURCE PAGES



Jesus Receives Childlike Sinners

MAIN IDEAS

- **Jesus shows the love of His Father.**
- **All people, children and adults, need Jesus.**
- **Jesus is happy with childlike faith.**

MEMORY VERSE

[Jesus said], "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for such belongs the kingdom of God."
—Mark 10:14b

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 19:1-10
- 2) Mark 10:13-16



LESSON SUMMARY

Anyone who has ever spent a lot of time with a young child can appreciate his curiosity, enthusiasm, and simple trust. If you offer a child a piece of cake, he doesn't pause and question your motives, or ask if there is some catch. Nor does he eye it suspiciously wondering if you have put something harmful in it. He simply accepts it and joyfully devours it. As adults we can learn from this, for children rightly see themselves as dependent receivers. Jesus did not come to instill in us a sense of self-reliance or independence but a heart that daily depends on and joyfully receives His love and grace. In today's lesson we presented these truths by reflecting on Jesus' words concerning children (Mark 10:13-16) and through the story of Zacchaeus' childlike faith in Luke 19.

God is a heavenly Father who pours out His love and goodness on undeserving sinners. He doesn't need anything from us (Acts 17:25). Therefore, He is free to give all things to His children. Jesus wants us to be like children who, joyfully and without question, become totally dependent on Him in all things.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that God would give you a heart that is happily dependent on Him, enjoying all of the love and grace He freely gives to His children.*
- *that God would give both you and your child humble, childlike hearts that depend fully and joyfully on Jesus.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

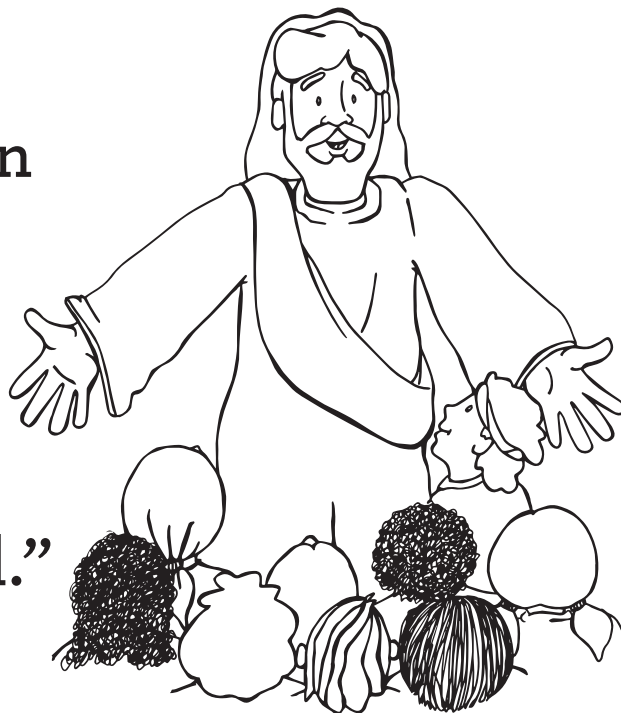
- Are there times when you don't ask for help even though you need it? Give an example of this. Why might a person not ask for help with something?
- What might keep someone from asking Jesus for help with his sin problem? Do some of these reasons stop you from asking Jesus for help?
- Have you ever seen a young child get in a car and drive to work in the morning? Why not? But can adults do this? But can adults do everything on their own? What do adults need help with? Can adults fix their sinful hearts? Who can? [Only Jesus! Both adults and children need Jesus.] What can we do this week to help us remember how much we all need Jesus?

ACTION STEP

This week, ask your parents what kinds of things they need help with, and then tell them about why Zacchaeus needed help from Jesus.

[Jesus said],
 “Let the children
 come to me;
 do not hinder
 them, for such
 belongs the
 kingdom of God.”

Mark 10:14b





Love

MAIN IDEA

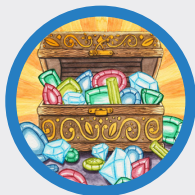
- **God gives of Himself for the joy of others.**

MEMORY VERSE

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.—John 3:16

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 103:1-14
- 2) Isaiah 40:11
- 3) Luke 19:1-10
- 4) John 3:16
- 5) John 10:11
- 6) John 15:9, 11
- 7) Romans 5:8
- 8) 1 John 4:11



LESSON SUMMARY

God is love. Maybe more than any other statement, this one has been used to identify God's basic essence. But if we consider God's love apart of the totality of God's nature, our understanding of God will be dangerously skewed. So what does God mean when He says that He is love? Pastor John Piper offers a helpful definition:

Biblical love is the overflow of joy that God has in Himself, spilling out on unworthy people to draw them into the greatest experience in the world, namely knowing, tasting, enjoying, praising, being swept up into the glory of God.¹

This definition may sound unusual to many because it places God, not people, at the center of God's affections. It almost seems prideful or selfish of God. And it would be if God were not truly worthy of all honor and praise. But He is glorious beyond measure, and our happiness can only be realized through Him! Hence, the "God-centeredness" of God becomes an everlasting fountain by which He can freely and continually give of Himself to His people.

In this lesson, we used the illustration of the teacher blowing bubbles for the class to enjoy to help the children comprehend this important distinction of the essence and nature of God's love. We then presented biblical examples in which God demonstrates His love: His beautiful creation, care of the world, provision for our needs, befriending sinners, and most importantly through giving us Jesus. For it is through Jesus alone, freely giving up His life on the cross, that we are able experience God's joyous fullness forever and ever.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that your child would grow in his or her understanding of the scope and depth of God's love.*
- *that the Holy Spirit may make your child's heart tender to receiving the gift of Jesus.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Read and talk about the memory verse from John 3:16. **Why is this the most loving thing God could do for us? Does everybody**

1. Piper, John. "The Pleasure of God in Election." Sermon preached on February 22, 1989, at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis.

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"receive" the joy of eternal life? What does God say that you must do to receive this joy? Are you believing in Jesus? In what ways has Jesus shown you His love?

- Give your child an example of how two people can respond to the same offer in very different ways. Do all people respond the same way to God's love? Can you give an example of someone responding joyfully to God's love? What about someone who rejects or ignores God's love? Why might someone choose to reject the lasting happiness that God's love gives? Do you have a heart that gladly receives God's love? Do you know of someone who is ignoring

God's love? How can we pray for them?

- Read Isaiah 40:11 and John 10:11. Talk about how an image of a shepherd caring for his sheep can help us to better understand the special love that God has for His children. **Has there been a time when it felt as if Jesus was holding you in His arms? Are there ways in which you can better experience the love that God has for you? What could you do this week to prepare your heart to be a better "receiver" of God's love?** Be on the look-out for God's love so you will recognize it and thank Him, read the Bible to hear His words of love communicated to you, pray to Him, etc.

ACTION STEP

If you have received God's love, do you think God wants you to be selfish with the joy He has given you? Read and discuss 1 John 4:11. In what ways could you love other people this week? With your parents' help, think a something special you could do this week to show God's love to someone else.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Find your way through the heart to the cross. Then, look up the verse in your Bible and fill in the blanks.

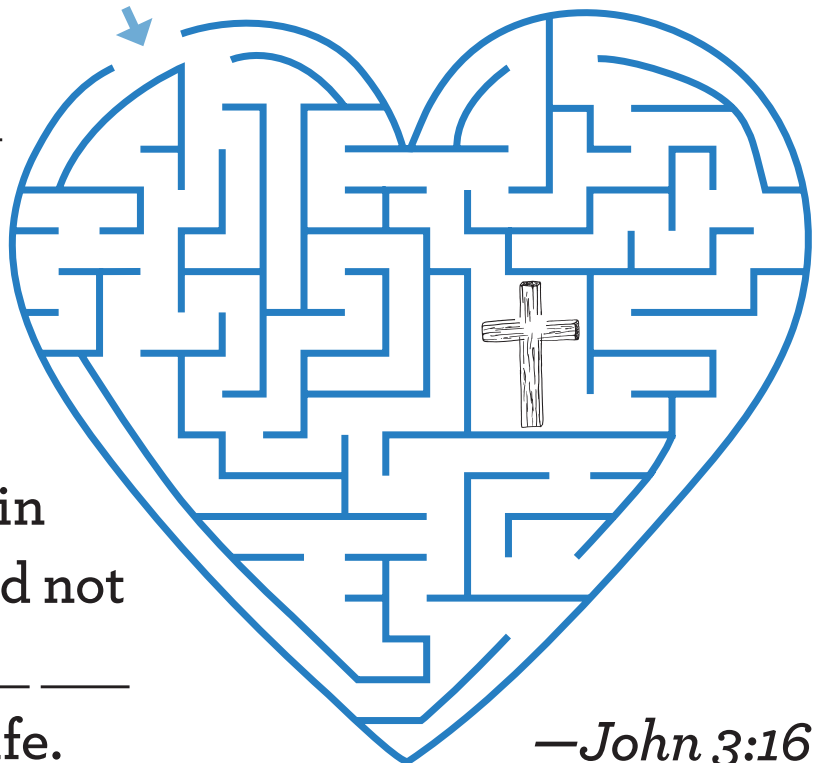
For God so

_____ the world, that he

_____ his only

_____, that
 whoever believes in
 _____ should not

_____ but have eternal life.



—John 3:16



Be Merciful

MAIN IDEA

- **God is merciful and wants His children to be merciful, too.**
- **Mercy see people in distress, feels compassion for them, and acts to help them.**
- **Jesus set the example of mercy that His disciples are to follow.**

MEMORY VERSE

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”
—Luke 6:36

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Psalm 145:9
- 2) Mark 1:40-42
- 3) Mark 8:1-3
- 4) Luke 6:36
- 5) Luke 10:33-34, 36-37
- 6) John 19:25-27
- 7) James 1:27
- 8) James 2:15-17



LESSON SUMMARY

The story of the good Samaritan is widely known, and even praised in the wider secular culture—the man on the side of the road, in desperate need of help, is passed by others until the Samaritan comes along and goes out of his way to help. But, as wonderful as it is that this story has gained wide acceptance as an example of what mercy is and does, Jesus intended it specifically for His disciples. We have much to learn from it, and it should challenge us to ponder whether or not we are living out this right doctrine in right actions toward others.

In this lesson, we briefly highlighted the story of the Samaritan showing mercy, and then looked at various examples of how Jesus showed mercy to those in distress, giving us an example to follow.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...

- *that God would develop in your child not just right thinking about God, but also right living before Him that extends in mercy toward others.*
- *that your child would be moved to look for opportunities in which to show mercy to others in the coming week.*



AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Review the story of the good Samaritan. Point out that the men who passed by were “religious” men. **Why do you think Jesus purposely told the story that way—making the religious men the “bad guys”?** What should we learn from this? Is being a true follower of Jesus simply knowing right things? Or is it something more? How does showing mercy demonstrate true love for God? Read and talk about James 1:27 and 2:15-17.
- Have your child recall a time when he or she experienced some kind of distress. **Did someone show mercy? In what way? How did that feel? Have you ever seen someone in distress but were tempted to ignore him? Do you ever feel like the person “deserved what he got”?** Are these thoughts pleasing to Jesus? Are there things that can help us to grow in being merciful? [e.g., reading the Gospels and looking at Jesus’ example, recalling the ways God has been merciful to us, praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help

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us, etc.] Is there a step this week that you could take to help you in growing to be more merciful toward others?

- Recall examples from the lesson of Jesus healing a leper and feeding a hungry multitude. Does Jesus expect us to show mercy in exactly the same way He did? Why isn't this possible? But what could you do to show mercy to your brothers or sisters when they are sick? What could you do to show mercy to children in a faraway land who do not have enough food to eat? What could you do this week to seek out an opportunity to show mercy to someone? What might it require you to do?

- What is everyone's most distressing need? [needing to be saved from God's wrath because of our sin] **How can that need be met?** [by crying out to God for mercy, trusting in Jesus alone to save us] **Why is this important to keep in mind when we are helping people in distress?** Emphasize that while it is important to care for people's physical needs, Jesus does not want us to neglect their greater spiritual need. **How could someone be encouraged to see his greater spiritual need?** Depending on the situation, is it always appropriate to speak openly about the person's spiritual need in times of crisis?

ACTION STEPS

This week, with your parents' help, complete the Mercy Opportunity assignment below.

MERCY OPPORTUNITY

**"I SAW SOMEONE
IN DISTRESS"**



Describe who was in distress and what kind of need they were/are experiencing.

**"I FELT COMPASSION
FOR THEM"**



Describe why you felt compassion for their situation.

"I ACTED TO HELP THEM"



Describe what you did to help them.



All God's Purposes Are Right

MAIN IDEAS

- **All God's purposes are right.**
- **It is wrong to judge God and question His purposes.**

MEMORY VERSES

For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! ⁴The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.
—Deuteronomy 32:3-4

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 18:24-25
- 2) Deuteronomy 32:3-4
- 3) Job 37:11-13
- 4) Psalm 9:7-8



LESSON SUMMARY

God, the Judge of all the earth, rules with perfect justice and righteousness (Genesis 18:5b; Psalm 9:7-8). So not only is God able to rule the world, but He is able to rule the universe well or rightly. Not only does God have the right to govern the universe and do whatever He pleases, but He also pleases to do what is right. It is against His very nature to act in an unrighteous way.

Though we may be tempted to question God's ways, we must remember that God is wiser and more loving than we are, and all His purposes are right.

Rejoice with your son or daughter that "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he" (Deuteronomy 32:4) as you remember that:

God has the right, power, wisdom and righteousness to rule the universe.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! ⁴The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.—Deuteronomy 32:3-4

Ask your child to define the following words: proclaim, ascribe, justice, iniquity, upright.

How would you explain Deuteronomy 32:3-4 in your own words?

Have your child explain to you why all God's purposes are always right, using the Scripture verses listed on the left to help with his or her explanation.

Share with your son or daughter about a time when you did not see the rightness of God's purposes at first, but later saw His goodness in the situation. **How was the situation handled? What can you learn from that experience?**

ACTION STEP

During application time, each student was asked to decide on a personal response to what was learned. After recording this step below, discuss how your child can apply this response to his or her life this week.

SUGGESTION FOR JOURNALING

Tell God about a situation you are having a hard time with. Ask Him to teach you how to trust Him. Ask Him to give you a verse that will help you in your struggle.

**SEEING GOD AT WORK****A Curse or a Blessing?**

by Noël Piper

One night when I was a little girl, I was leaning on the windowsill with my cousin and watching a frightening storm outside. “What will we do if there’s a flood?” I worried. She reassured me with what she thought was truth from the Bible, “We won’t have a flood, because God gave Noah a rainbow as a promise that He wouldn’t ever send a flood again.”

Of course, she didn’t quite understand. What God really promised was that He would never again destroy the whole world with a flood. There really are still floods.

A flood is a terrible thing, isn’t it? When people know that the river near them is rising, they move furniture upstairs to keep it dry, and they put sandbags around their house to try to keep the floodwaters out. If they can’t control it, the flood will damage their house and belongings.

Would anyone ever want the river to flood? Yes. Is a flood ever a good thing? Yes.

One of the earliest places of civilization in the whole world was Egypt. There was one main reason for that—the flooding of the Nile River. Every year people could

count on a flood that spread over the whole river valley. Wherever the floodwaters went, rich soil from upriver settled to the ground and stayed, even when the water receded. This fertile topsoil that was renewed every year created rich farmland that could feed a thriving civilization. The Egyptians depended on the yearly flood and looked forward to it.

Because the Nile flooded every year, Egypt was a rich country, and God used Egypt to save His people, the Israelites. He sent Joseph to persuade the Pharaoh to store up food when the crops were good. Then, when there was famine, the Israelites came to Egypt and were saved. God sent yearly floods to Egypt to prepare a place for His people.

He brings the clouds to punish men, or to water his earth and show his love.—Job 37:11

To punish...or to show His love. So is a flood a good thing or a bad thing? Is it a punishment or a blessing? It depends on God’s purposes.

Try to think of some other events that may seem to be either terrible or loving, depending on God’s purposes. Whether God sends rain to water the earth, or to punish people, do you trust Him that His purposes are right? Is it right for God to show love? Is it right for Him to punish? Can He do both at the same time? Perhaps you’ll notice something like that around you this week.