

## AMPLIFY: God's Mercy

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### Lesson 1: A Merciful God

**What we want students to learn:** That God is a merciful God, showing goodness to those in need.

**What we want students to do with what they've learned:** To see God as the main and first source they turn to when they find themselves in need.

**Scripture Focus:** Psalm 25:4-7, Psalm 6:8-10, 2 Samuel 24:10-17

**Overview:** Theologian Wayne Grudem defines God's mercy as "God's goodness toward those in misery and distress." This is a very helpful definition, as we sometimes confuse God's mercy with God's grace (and overall God's goodness). God's mercy is an aspect of God's character that is reserved for those who need God's help, intervention, and goodness. And there is an implied meaning that the people who need God's goodness may very well be those who don't deserve it. And yet, we know that God is merciful to those who call out to Him. This series will teach your students that God is uniquely merciful to those in need of his mercy.

### Lesson 2: Mercy Displayed

**What we want students to learn:** That Jesus' mission of redemption was born out of God's great mercy.

**What we want students to do with what they've learned:** To define how God's mercy shown through the cross changes the way they see themselves, God, and the world.

**Scripture Focus:** Ephesians 2:1-5, Matthew 9:27-31

**Overview:** God is merciful. You established this fact last lesson with your students. We know that God gives mercy to those in need, especially those who don't deserve it. What students are going to learn in this lesson is how Jesus is the fullest expression of God's mercy. Your students will come face-to-face with exactly how their sin impacts their status with God, and what it earns for them. Presented with this, Jesus' sacrifice on their behalf is an amazing testimony to the mercy of God. Students will be given space to consider in their own words what Jesus did for them and how this impacts their lives.

### Lesson 3: Mercy Through Us

**What we want students to learn:** That as people who have been on the receiving end of God's great mercy, we are to show mercy to others.

**What we want students to do with what they've learned:** To evaluate their own lives, considering their actions, and answer the question, "Am I a merciful person"?

**Scripture Focus:** Matthew 5:7, 2 Corinthians 1:1-4

**Overview:** When we come to saving faith in Jesus, we are transformed. Part of what this transformation results in is people living lives where the attributes of God are in evidence. Throughout Scripture, we see this referred to as "producing fruit." The Spirit works in and through us to make us more like Christ. As people who have received mercy, and been transformed by it, we have to extend mercy to others. It's part of our identities as Christ-followers. In this lesson, your students will be challenged to examine their attitudes toward extending mercy to other people, and whether or not they have some growth to do in this area of their lives.