

# AMPLIFY

GROWING A  
FAITH THAT LASTS

AMPLIFY: GOD'S MERCY  
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.

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## TEACHER PREP VIDEO

Each **Amplify** lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These are short videos designed to help you grasp the main point of the lesson as you prepare to teach.

To access your **God's Mercy** lesson 1 Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 1 and click on the "Background" tab. You'll notice the Teacher Prep Video near the top of the Lesson Manager window.

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## BIBLE BACKGROUND

The **Bible Background** is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. The Details gives you background info for each book, The Setting informs you what's happening in and around the passage, and The Main Point gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by "context"?** In every **YM360** Bible study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By "context" we mean at the very least helping students know **who** wrote the book, **when** it was written, and **why** it was written.
- **What's the big deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a "big picture" understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the **Bible Background** to help summarize the context.

## THE DETAILS

### Psalms

- **Author:** God inspired various authors to write a majority of the Psalms in their era, including seventy-three by David, twelve by Asaph, eleven by the Korahites and two by Solomon. Heman, Ethan, and Moses each wrote one, while the authorship of fifty other Psalms remains unknown.

WEEK 1: LESSON PLAN  
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- **Timeframe:** The Psalms were written during different eras of Israel's history, spanning from 1100 BC (i.e., Psalm 29, 68) to 400 BC (i.e., Psalm 119).
- **Purpose:** The Psalms are inspired by God to poetically reflect humanity's journey with Him. Each psalm serves a different purpose, such as a personal or communal lament, hymn, song, reflection or declaration. Many of these were set to music and intended to be shared publicly, even when sharing a revealing confession (i.e., Psalm 51).

## 2 Samuel

- **Author:** The author of 1-2 Samuel is unknown. While it's certainly possible that Samuel wrote some of what's recorded in these books, the mention of his death in 1 Samuel 25 means that he didn't write all of it. The books are given the title of "Samuel" because of his prominent role in the establishment of the monarchy.
- **Timeframe:** It's difficult to say for certain when 1-2 Samuel was written. It's very possible that they were written and edited over a period. More than likely they were established in their final form around the 10th century BC.
- **Purpose:** The main theme of these books is God's choosing to accomplish His purposes through the lineage of David and to set up Jerusalem as the location for the temple. There are many "ups and downs" throughout 1-2 Samuel, and David goes through times of obedience and rebellion. He experiences blessings and consequences for sins.

## THE MAIN POINT

You're going to use these three passages to support three main teaching points. The first point will establish that one of God's attributes is that He is merciful. He shows kindness to His children, especially those in need. You'll be using Psalm 25:4-7 to support this point. The second teaching point is that God hears our cries for mercy and responds. You'll use Psalm 6:8-10 to support the point, specifically vs. 9. The final teaching point will show students that God gives us mercy, even when we don't deserve it. You'll support this point with 2 Samuel 24:10-14. You'll briefly give the context of verses 1-9, then will show that 10-14 is essentially a case study of God granting mercy where none was necessarily deserved.

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## LESSON PLAN

The **Lesson Plan** contains three elements: An introductory activity called **The Lead In**; the Bible study section called **The Main Event**; an application-focused segment called **The Last Word**.

## THE LEAD IN

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- **Goal:** To help students understand that the principles of stewardship sometimes go against the popular thinking of people in the world and their friends.
- **Set-Up:** Arrange to show the following YouTube video:
  - o <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPTZcPcObol>  
If the video is not active at the time you access this lesson, search for "trapped dog." You're ultimately looking for a video of a dog (or another animal or person) being rescued.

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FIRST, ask if anyone has ever rescued an animal from a scary or dangerous situation. Allow students to respond and tell any stories they have.

THEN, show the YouTube video of the dog getting rescued. When you've finished, lead students in a short discussion. Ask:

- Was the dog able to get out by himself? What had to happen?
- What could you tell about the guys trying to get the dog out?
- Describe the emotions you saw on the man at the end. What do you think the dog was feeling?

FINALLY, explain that this is the first lesson in a three-lesson look at God's mercy. Say something like:

- **Just like this dog, we find ourselves in need. And like this dog, we have needs that can only be met by someone else. What we're going to be learning today, is that God is not only able to help us out in tough times, but He is willing. It's going to be a great time of Bible study. Let's jump in.**

## THE MAIN EVENT

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- **Goal:** For students to remember that God is a merciful God, showing goodness to those in need.
- **Set Up:** None

FIRST, start by seeing who can define the word "mercy." Allow students to take a few shots at defining it. Then, use the following definition to either fine tune or inform their responses. Say something like:

- **For our next three lessons, we're going to define mercy as "God's goodness toward those in misery and distress." It's easy to think that words like grace, and kindness, and mercy are all the same, and for sure, there is some overlap in the meanings of these words. But as we focus on God as someone who is merciful, we're going to focus on mercy as God's goodness and kindness specifically to those who are having a hard time. What we're going to learn is that this is an essential part of who God is.**

THEN, explain to students that to help them track with what you're teaching about God's mercy, you're going to use three teaching points. Encourage them to take notes if it helps them remember the truths of the lesson. Before you give them their first teaching point, have students turn to Psalm 25:4-7. Give some of the context surrounding the passage using the Bible Background portion of your lesson plan. Then, when they've found the passage, read or have a student read the verses. When you've finished, explain that the first teaching point is "God is merciful. He shows kindness to His children, especially those in need." Then, transition into a brief discussion of the passage. Ask something like:

- **How would you summarize what David is saying in verse 4?**
  - Answers will vary. Help students see that David sees God's ways in the right ways. He wants to know them to live the kind of life that is worth living.
- **What does David say about God in verse 5?**
  - Answers will vary. Allow students to share any of the several correct answers, making sure they mention that David's hope is in God. Explain that this is an important point. David can hope in God because of who God is, as you're about to see in the next couple of verses.
- **In verse 6, David says that God is merciful, then the truth of He says something about the nature of**

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- God's mercy. What does he say?**
  - o Answer: That it is from "of old."
- **What does this mean?**
  - o Answer: It's David's way of saying that God is and has always been merciful. Mercy is a part of the foundational nature of God.
- **What does David ask God in vs 7?**
  - o Answer: To look past his sins.
- **What does this have to do with God's mercy?**
  - o Answer: Make sure your students grasp this. David's sin would have earned him judgment from God, separation, and death. That's what David's sin earned. God, in His mercy, chose to remember David through the lens of His love, not His anger or judgment. It's a sign of God's great mercy.

Explain to students that we are all like David. Say something like:

- **God doesn't have to show us kindness. He doesn't have to have mercy on us or show us forgiveness. He is under no obligation to. And yet, He does. He shows us mercy when we're in need because He loves us. It's a profound truth that is super easy for us to take for granted. Let's continue our look at God's mercy to see Him in action.**

NEXT, instruct students to turn to Psalm 6. When they've found it, have a volunteer read Psalm 6:8-10. When you've finished, point out that your second teaching point is, "God hears our cries for mercy and responds." Lead students in a brief discussion. Ask questions like:

- **Summarize God's response to those who cry out to Him. Where do you see evidence to support your summary?**
  - o Answer: We see here (and elsewhere in Scripture, by the way) that God hears the cries of those who call out to Him in the midst of tough times. Vs. 8 says, "the LORD has heard my weeping." Vs. 9 says, "The LORD has heard my cry for mercy."
- **What does verse 10 say about how David views God's ability to hear and answer his pleas for mercy?**
  - o Answer: David is confident that God will not only hear his cry for mercy but will answer it accordingly.
- **OK, so can we pause for a moment and consider something that is easy for us to miss? Why is it such a big deal that God hears us when we call out to Him?**
  - o Answers will vary but lead students to see that this is the Creator King we're talking about here; the Alpha and Omega; the one, true holy God. It is AMAZING that God decides to listen to the needs of His creation.
- **Everyone has a desire to be known and cared for. It's woven into who we are. Many people say this is especially true for teenagers because of where you are in your developmental stage. If a teenager struggles with being known and cared for, how does the fact that God hears their cries for mercy impact how they feel about themselves?**
  - o Answers will vary.

Before you move on, take a moment and once again reinforce to students the amazing truth that God hears us when we call to Him. Say something like:

- **We tend to take this truth for granted because we don't stop and allow ourselves to shift perspective and consider the bigger picture. It is hard to put into words how remarkable it is that God listens to**




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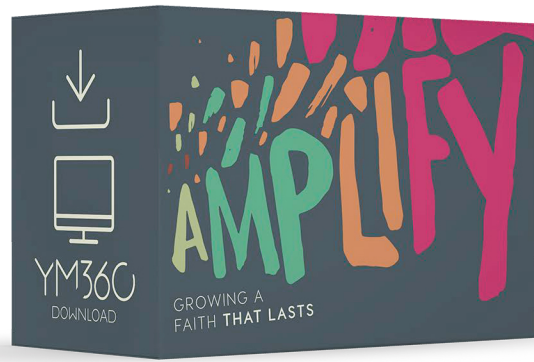
GROWING A  
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We hope you have enjoyed this sample of this **Amplify: Growing a Faith That Lasts** study. Each **Amplify** lesson has a Leader Guide in PDF and DOC format that you can adjust to fit the needs of your group.

Do you have questions about this study? We're here to help! Contact our world-class Customer Care team at (888) 969-6360, email us at [customercare@ym360.com](mailto:customercare@ym360.com), or Live Chat us through our website.



THE HOLY SPIRIT  
WORSHIP  
GOD'S WORD  
OBEDIENCE  
GOD'S MERCY  
EVANGELISM  
GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY  
SUFFERING  
GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS  
HOLINESS  
SPIRITUAL GIFTS  
SERVICE  
HUMILITY  
KNOWING GOD  
PRAYER  
STEWARDSHIP  
THE UNCHANGING GOD



This study is one of the 3-lesson studies in the Amplify curriculum.

Amplify is a 52-lesson youth ministry Bible study curriculum that will help your students lay the foundation of a lasting relationship with God through a study of the core concepts of their faith.

### Included in each Amplify 3-lesson study:

- 3 Bible study lessons
- Bible background and Teacher Prep Videos
- Weekly student devotions
- Weekly parent pages
- Weekly social media content
- Presentation graphics
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