

Topic: God is Merciful (Lesson 19)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy” (Matthew 5:7).

Focus: God is full of mercy. God will do things for us even if we do not deserve them.

Practical Application: Consider giving examples of when a parent shows mercy to a child. For example, a child might have spilled milk many times, but his parents still take care of him by feeding him and loving him instead of punishing him. God is like this toward us.

Intermediate:

Verse: “Or he who exhorts, in that exhortation; he who gives, in simplicity; he who leads, in diligence; he who shows mercy, in cheerfulness” (Romans 12:8).

Focus: Since our God is merciful, we should also show mercy toward others.

Practical Application: Suppose at school someone takes something from you, but instead of reporting them right away to the teacher, you give them a chance to return the item to you. This is to show mercy. Or suppose your brother or sister plays with your favorite toy without asking. You can show them mercy by giving them a chance to put the toy back instead of telling your mom or dad right away.

Advanced:

Verses: “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us” (Ephesians 2:4). (memory verse)
“So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy” (Romans 9:16).

Focus: To be merciful means to show compassion and forgiveness when others do not deserve it. Even though God does not have to be merciful toward us, He chooses to be merciful because He loves us.

Practical Application: Consider asking the children if they were ever shown mercy when they did not deserve it. For example, was there a time when they did not finish their homework but were given an extension to turn it in? Or have they ever not done their chores but were given another chance to do them instead of being punished? God shows mercy toward us all the time, even if we do not deserve it, because He loves us.