

LESSON 1

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS AND MERCY

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the just and righteous nature of our God.
2. To understand and recognize that God is merciful and forgiving.
3. To choose to do what is right in God's eyes, knowing that we reap what we sow.
4. To show mercy to those who need mercy.

MEMORY VERSE

"And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the **Lord**, that it may be well with you."

(Deuteronomy 6:18a)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for guiding all of us into a new quarter.
2. Lord, thank You for helping me this past week.
3. May You help me do better in obeying you.
4. We pray that You grant us the wisdom to understand You better and to help us learn how we can be obedient.
5. Lastly, thank You for blessing us by allowing us to come to RE class together.



Overview

1. What Is Character?

- Good and bad character (2 Pet 1:5-8; 1 Cor 15:33)
- Who is our example? (1 Cor 11:1)

2. The absolute character of God: His righteousness

- An absolute standard of right and wrong, good and bad (Ps 119:137 ff.; Mat 19:17)
- We must commit to the absolute standard and character (1 Pet 1:14-17; Ecc 12:13-14)

3. To be Christ-like: To understand God's mercy

- Rely on God's Spirit to bear His character (Ps 130:3-4; Rom 5:3-5)
- We must obey and submit to be like Him (Jer 6:16; 7:23)
- We must show mercy to others (Mat 18:22-35)

4. Learning from God's Character

5. Life Application

- Character! Character! Character!
- What Would We Do to Be More like Christ?

6. Activity

- Righteousness in Action
- Mercy to a Tree



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Righteousness

The original Hebrew usage of righteousness in the Old Testament was most likely derived from the root word for "straightness." The word is also used to describe the just. In a broader sense, righteousness describes what is pleasing to God, what conforms to His Will, and a life that is in line with one's covenantal relationship with God. Therefore, to say that righteousness is "what is correct" denies a relational implication between God and man. Righteousness as described in the Bible illustrates a reliance of man upon God (Rom 4:2-3). It is the saving grace of man, that Jesus, in His righteousness, was able to die for man's sin. Therefore, it is man's obedience, submission, and reliance on God's righteousness that provides true deliverance and salvation. The focus of God's righteousness in this quarter will touch upon the relational values between God and man. It was God's righteous and sovereign will that guided Joseph through trials that he did not understand at the time (Gen 50:20). God's righteousness called for the Israelites to rely on and obey Him alone.

Mercy

Synonymous with loving-kindness, compassion and grace, the term "mercy" in the Bible, when describing the relationship between God and Man, connotes a helpless state in man. It evokes an image of a man in a lower position seeking favor or grace from a man in a higher position. The most vivid illustration of this is the blind man crying out to Jesus, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Lk 18:38). There is a dichotomous meaning of mercy that is imperative for children to understand as a part of their faith's foundation. First is the desperation of man to receive mercy. God is not required to show us mercy, for we are the ones who sinned. Yet, He helps the helpless and shows compassion to those who do not deserve it. Second is the requirement by God for us to show mercy to others. Where righteousness sets the parameters of our covenant with God, mercy displays God's devotion to His covenant: "And lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Mat 28:20).



Reaching Out to Your Students

As our students continue to mature, they begin to develop their own core principles and moral standards of what is good and bad, right and wrong. The level of empowerment given to children in today's schooling encourages them to think beyond what they are taught. Teachers are now considered as "facilitators" of a child's development. However, according to God's standards, there is an absolute plumb line and measuring stick to righteousness, to what is good character. This quarter, God's mercy and righteousness is revealed to the students through the stories of Moses and Joseph. To grasp the full meaning of this, students must first understand that there is an absolute standard as to what makes a good person, and this is what our faith is based upon (Mat 19:17). Therefore, their good character can only be imitated and learned from God first. Other secular role models may be good examples in some respect, but God must be our first and absolute standard of character.

In the Elementary 2 level, children have been exposed to formal schooling for at least five years of their lives. They understand that there are those with greater authority that they must obey (parents, and school and RE teachers). At this stage, we can challenge the children to think beyond a prescriptive notion of God's righteousness. It is not simply "do" or "don't," but also understanding man's reliance on God and His righteousness, and why God is righteous. At an elementary level, children view righteousness as a set of rules given by God that they must follow. Help your students understand that God's righteousness is more than this. It manifests when things occur beyond our reasoning (e.g., Joseph), and when we have to experience hardships for our training and good purpose (e.g., Israelites in the wilderness). This expanded understanding of righteousness will help children deepen their relationship with God and understand the ever-present need to rely on God and His righteousness.

Likewise, children have often understood God's mercy to equate to blessings. They can most readily identify examples of His mercy in physical blessings of health, provision of needs, and the answering of their prayers. To further the children's understanding of mercy, this lesson looks to focus on our unworthiness to receive God's mercy. Linking this with God's righteousness and sovereignty will help students think beyond the reaping and manifestation of God's mercy. Instead, they will begin to understand the motivation of God's mercy—His love for us—the truest embodiment of mercy being the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. At their age, we can encourage the students to respond to the mercy they have been given with more than a single "thank God." We should challenge them to put God's mercy in their lives into action, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and show mercy, love, and forgiveness to our fellow man. The opportunity to emulate Christ, live for Him, and bear His good nature is mercy in itself (2 Cor 5:14-15).



Opener

5 Minutes

This quarter, we will learn more stories about the Israelites, but before we can, we need to learn a bit more about the character of God. Does anybody know what "character" means?

Well, "character" means "the qualities and nature of someone that make up a person." Now, there are many things that God does that we don't always understand. Like, why did He establish all of those laws in the Old Testament? Or, why did He have to send Jesus down to die for us? These are very difficult questions, but we can slowly begin to understand them by understanding His character. So, now that we understand what "character" is, let's brainstorm what we think God's character is. [Write down the students' suggestions, then circle "mercy" and "righteousness."]

All of God's characteristics are related to these two specific ones: mercy and righteousness. These are what we're going to be learning about today: God's righteousness and mercy. But learning about righteousness and mercy does not only involve memorizing a few verses in the Bible. When God reveals something about Himself, it is because He wants us to do what He has done by **imitating** Him. Let us turn our Bibles to **Philippians 2:5**. Before we can imitate Christ, we need to know more about Him.



Vocabulary

righteousness: straight, just, right, pleasing to God; the goodness of God

mercy: to show love and compassion when one is in help or indebted

imitate: to copy; to do the same as someone else

character: the qualities and nature of someone



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

Before we learn further about God's righteousness and mercy, we have a task:

[Provide mini whiteboards or paper for each pair of students.]

Discuss with a partner about what it means to have good character, and draw an example of what you think someone with good character does.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet and allow students to complete it as you progress through the lesson. The answers have been underlined.

I. What Is Character?

According to the dictionary, character is the sum of the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual.

To make it simple:

Our character is who we really are. It's what we do when no one is looking. It's the accumulation of our thoughts, values, words, and actions.

How do you know what is good character? Have you seen it before?

List at least five traits of someone with good character here:

Some of you will immediately think of:

1. Trustworthy—Be honest
 - Don't cheat or steal
 - Be reliable: do what you say you'll do
 - Be loyal: stand by your family, friends, and country

2. Respect—Treat others with respect
 - Use good manners, not bad language
 - Be considerate of others' feelings
 - Don't threaten, hit, or hurt anyone
 - Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements
3. Responsible—Do what you are supposed to do
 - Plan ahead
 - Persevere: keep on trying!
 - Always do your best
 - Use self-control
 - Be self-disciplined
 - Think before you act: consider the consequences
 - Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes
 - Set a good example for others
4. Caring—Be kind
 - Be compassionate and show you care
 - Express gratitude
 - Forgive others
 - Help people in need

Let's also refer to **2 Peter 1:5-8**, "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul said, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."

II. The Absolute Character of God: His Righteousness

FOR TEACHERS

Focus on God's character being the only righteous one. **What does it mean to be righteous?** [Have students work on the worksheet.] To be righteous is to do what is **correct**.

What is God's righteousness? God's righteousness enables Him to think and do everything absolutely correctly. God is righteous, and all of His acts are righteous because that is His character.

Let's look at a few verses about God's righteousness and see what we can learn from them. Please refer to the worksheet. Psalm 97:2: "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne."

Righteousness is an essential characteristic of God.

In Genesis 18:25, Abraham plead with God to save any righteous people who lived in Sodom and Gomorrah from His wrath again sin.

"Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

Abraham appealed to God in his pleading, because he understood that God is righteous. A righteous God will never give anyone worse than they deserve. Do you remember how many times Abraham plead with God? (Six times: 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, and 10.)

God's righteousness is the source of all His judgments. Let's read Acts 17:31.

"Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Because God is righteous, He must judge the unrepentant people in this world one day.

Since God is the only perfectly righteous one, He is also the only one who can tell us how to be perfectly righteous.

"Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He teaches sinners in the way" (Ps 25:8).

III. God's Mercy

What is the definition of mercy? It is God withholding the punishment we deserve.

What does it mean to have mercy?

To have mercy is to look at the trouble of others and care, act, forgive, and persevere.

Let's read **Psalm 25:6-7** and fill in the blanks: "Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your mercy remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O LORD."

God's mercy is another one of His characteristics that comes from His goodness, so it is also closely related to His love and grace. Mercy has to do specifically with God's characteristic attitude toward people who are in trouble. One thing we must know is that God's mercy has His rescuing power behind it. Out of God's mercy, He rescues us from difficulty; out of His mercy, He saves the powerless; out of His mercy, He heals the sick.

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort." God is called "the Father of mercies"! His mercy is abundantly great and boundless, higher than the heavens and filling the earth. His mercy is eternal and unchanging. God's mercy is "from everlasting to everlasting" (Ps 103:17).

We can refer to God's mercy in the story of when He brought His people out of bondage in Egypt. They were completely helpless, but God saw their desperate situation and rescued them. Psalm 136 recounts God's merciful deliverance of Israel from Egyptian slavery. Let's read Psalm 136:1, "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

We have no doubt that God delights in mercy (Mic 7:18), but we also need to know that God chooses to show mercy according to His own purpose: "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy" (Rom 9:15). God shows mercy toward us not based upon our actions or desires, but because He is the God who has mercy.

One thing for sure is that God is always merciful to the truly repentant. If we confess, He faithfully forgives. When we come before God, we bring our own sinfulness and ask God for His mercy, just like the tax collector. Standing far from the temple, he would not so much as lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner!" (Lk 18:13). That's the attitude we need to have when we come before God.

Because God has been merciful to us, we must be merciful in our actions toward those who are in need. "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful" (Lk 6:36).

God showed mercy to us by sending Jesus Christ to die on the cross for us! Therefore, we have been delivered from sin because of God's mercy. We ought to be thankful and keep praising God from our heart by saying, "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever" (Ps 89:1).

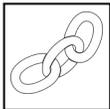
IV. Learning from God's Character: Righteousness and Mercy

The Lord Jesus Christ should be our model; we should fashion our lives in harmony in accordance with His wonderful example. We must train ourselves to think like Christ and to act like Christ.

1. We need to love righteousness. As the children of God, we should seek to imitate our heavenly Father.
2. We should not seek to find revenge against those who have sinned against us, but leave vengeance to God

(Rom 12:17-21).

3. We should not envy the wicked. God said on the day of judgment, He will not leave the wicked unpunished (Ps 37; 73). Their day of judgment is rapidly coming upon them, and justice will prevail.
4. If we suffer injustice at the hands of others, we can pray that God will bring them to repentance and salvation (1 Pet 2:18-25).
5. "And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you" (Dt 6:18a).
6. When we have the opportunity to show mercy, do it right away. When we show mercy, God will be merciful to us, too (Mt 5:7).
7. When something happens that makes you upset and you want to show justice, just remember, to "stop," "think," "analyze," and then ask what action is needed for the long term. Be merciful, and when you need mercy, God will be there for you.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Bible is inspired by God, is the only scriptural truth, and is the standard for Christian living.

The author of the Bible is God Himself. The authors who wrote it and the ones who compiled it were all people whom God used to put together this instructional book for us. Since God wrote the Bible, we can be assured that it teaches us about God's perfect character, and is the only book from which we can learn the way to righteousness, and from there, eternal life.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **Is everybody's character good and correct?** No. Many people do what they think is right, but their actions are actually not good (Judg 21:25).
2. **What did Paul say in 1 Corinthians 11:1?** "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."
3. **Fill In the Blank**
 - a. Psalm 97:2 "_____ and justice are the _____ of His throne." (Righteousness, foundation)
 - b. Acts 17:31 "Because He has appointed a _____ on which He will judge the world in _____ by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." (day, righteousness)
4. **What does it mean to say that God is righteous?** It means that His thoughts and actions are always absolutely correct.
5. **How do we know what is righteous and pleasing to God today?** We must imitate those who imitate God—those who believe in God already, know the word of God, and have the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
6. **What does it mean to have mercy?** To have mercy is to look at the trouble of others and care, act, forgive, and persevere.
7. **Which book of the Bible describes God's mercy as "from everlasting to everlasting"?** The Book of Psalms.
8. **Can we rely on our own abilities to copy God's character?** No. We need to rely on God and the power of the Holy Spirit to help us to be more like Christ.



Life Application

10 Minutes

[Hand out the Life Application worksheets, and ask students to complete them. The answers have been listed below.]

1. Character! Character! Character!

<p>Case #1</p> <p>Lisa has integrity. Even though all her classmates wanted her to cheat with them, she knew that it was wrong to cheat, so she refused to take the sheet. It must have been hard for Lisa to refuse to cheat, because she knew that doing so would make everyone dislike her, but she believed in doing what was right. This shows that Lisa knows to stand up for what is right, even if it means standing alone.</p>	<p>Case #3</p> <p>Ian has humility and understanding. Although Ian got angry at first, he did not allow his anger to control him. He left for somewhere else to allow himself to cool down. After cooling down, he realized that his sister did not break his controller on purpose and understood that it was only an accident. He knew that it was wrong for him to get angry, so he apologized.</p>
<p>Case #2</p> <p>Jim has compassion. Everyone else around Jim cares more about getting to the movie on time than helping the man. Jim sees the papers all over the floor and, even though it will mean he will arrive to the movie late, stops to help the man pick up his papers.</p>	<p>Case #4</p> <p>Anne has thankfulness and appreciation. Anne knows that her family is doing the best they can to provide for her. She does not need to wear the newest fashions or styles to be happy. She understands that happiness does not come from material things, and that it is important to be grateful for what you have, instead of complain about what you don't have.</p>

2. What Would We Do to Be More like Christ?

1. I would tell my school friends to stop, ask the girl if she's OK, and then comfort her. It is important to be kind to everyone, regardless of who they are or how they look. One of Christ's great commandments is "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." We should show love to everyone, because Christ showed love us, even though we are sinners.
2. Even though I might be scared of the consequences, I would confess to my mother that I broke the vase and apologize. I would do this because the ninth commandment tells us not to lie. Christ does not want us to let sin enter our hearts, because that would give Satan a foothold.
3. I would not let my anger control me, nor would I sin when I am angry, because the Bible says, "Be angry, and do not sin." Instead, I would give myself time to cool down and think about how I should handle the situation. I would forgive my sister because I know that it was an accident, and because Christ tells us to forgive "seventy times seven" times.

Life Application Conclusion

The character of God is shown plainly to us through His word. There is no mystery clouding what and how He wants His children to behave. Paul says, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ"!

2 Corinthians 5:7 reminds us that we must walk by faith and not by sight. When we want to follow God's example, how can we see how He wants us to live? We can't physically see Jesus and look at His every step and character today.

Spiritual Eyes

We must read the word of God as if it were a mirror showing us who God wants us to be. It is in the Bible where we see the true character of God's righteousness; everything He deems right and wrong, pure and sinful. Let's read Proverbs 15:30 and Luke 11:34. In order to put God's character into action, we have to put God's word into our hearts. [Reinforce the reasons we have memory verses, review the current lesson's memory verse, and make a renewed resolution for the entire class to internalize the word of God through memory verses.]

Spiritual Ears

We must pray in the Spirit and open the ears of our heart, so that we can listen to our conscience and to the Spirit when it moves. God will speak to us in prayer, not in a clear voice, but by moving us and guiding us. If we continue to do what is pleasing to Him, we will know. [Discuss how to effectively pray by meditating and thinking over matters, contemplating on our actions, and not just by repeating the same prayer requests on loop.]

"Imparting the Mercy We Receive"

Read Matthew 5:14-16. We must imitate God, just as Paul imitated Christ. God doesn't want a good Christian to be ashamed of their conduct or to hide from others. When have you been afraid to do the right thing? (When under peer pressure; when everyone else refuses to do it; when the right thing means more work for ourselves; or when it means we may be punished for our own mistakes.) God wants us to shine in a world of darkness. If the whole world were already filled with light, there would no longer be a need for us to be lights and lamps. But it isn't, so we shouldn't hide under shades; we need to bravely show the whole world the wonderful character of God. [Lead into Activity 2.]

To whom do we need to show mercy (Gal 2:10; 6:2)?

Those who may physically, emotionally, and spiritually need our help. Remind the students to look out for one another and make sure every classmate feels like they are a part of the family. To open the students' eyes to a broader scope of the needy and helpless, discuss what kind of physical, emotional, and spiritual needs people may have. This may include encouragement for personal evangelism at their young age.



Activity

1. Righteousness in Action / 2. Mercy to a Tree

10-15 Minutes

1. Righteousness in Action

Objective: To show the students that God's commands are actions that we must obey and not merely words to listen to.

Materials

- Large poster paper
- 8 4"x6" colorful index cards
- Permanent markers

Instructions

1. Prepare a poster of Psalm 119:33-40, and remove the following words: *Teach, Give me, Make me walk, Incline my heart, Turn away my eyes, Establish, Turn away from my reproach, and I long.* Leave spaces at the blanks for students to put the index cards.
2. Read through Psalm 119:33-40 one time while the students listen with their eyes closed, trying to imagine what you're reading.
3. Read through Psalm 119:33-40 a second time, this time having students jotting down each action word/phrase they hear.
4. Discuss what the key action phrases in this passage were. (*Teach, Give me, Make me walk, Incline my heart, Turn away my eyes, Establish, Turn away from my reproach, I long.*)
5. Hand each pair of students a card and ask them to write one of the actions on the card.
6. While the students place the cards in the blank spaces, ask them for suggestions on how they might use these actions in everyday life. (Suggestions: *Teach* math, *give me* food, *make me* walk to church, etc.)
7. Explain to them that the fact that God is righteous means that His way is the best and only way to be saved. We can know more about the right way through His word (i.e., the Bible, sermons, and RE lessons). So, to be pleasing to God, we cannot continue simply to do what we like and make up our own rules, but find joy in doing what is pleasing to God and complete these actions.

2. Mercy to a Tree

Objective: To teach the students how God has shown mercy to us, and how we in turn must show mercy to others and be fruitful for God.

Materials

- Large poster paper with a pre-drawn tree stump and branches.
Underneath the tree, write, "The Lord has shown me mercy..."
- Post-Its (multi-colored) and pre-cut leaves (at least fifty)
Note: If Post-Its are not viable, feel free to pre-cut cardboard fruit.
- Permanent markers
- Tape or Blu-Tak

Instructions

[Since this is a reflective and sharing activity, it is encouraged to move away from the tables and chairs, and perhaps sit together in a circle.]

1. Tell them the story recorded in Luke 13:6-9 about the barren fig tree. Explain the important teachings of the unfruitful tree, and how Jesus is the Man who tends the tree and gives it another year (i.e., He shows the tree mercy). We are trees without fruit, who need Jesus' help, and who need to show God that we can do good works, even if we fail sometimes (i.e., we need mercy).
2. Show the students the tree that is without leaves or fruits. Explain to them that we do not want to be a tree with just leaves, but a tree that is as fruitful as possible. God has given us an extra year, so this activity will span for the next year (or quarter depending on feasibility).
3. **Fruit/Post-Its:** Every week, each student must choose to write down one good thing they did, how they showed compassion and mercy to another, or did what was pleasing to God. Students cannot repeat their responses (i.e., they cannot write the same thing every week).
4. **Leaves:** When you post up a fruit, include two leaves as well. In the end, the aim is to have a tree full of fruits and leaves.
5. **Fallen fruit:** If, during the week, the student feels guilty about something they have done wrong, they are encouraged to post a "fruit" on the ground by the stump. This will double up as a prayer request, where the class and teachers can pray for that student (who may remain anonymous).
6. Ask the students to fill out their first "fruit" and stick it up. After class or during lunchtime each week, they can update the tree.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

Fill In the Blank

1. Righteousness, foundation
2. righteous, wicked
3. mercies, mercy
4. mercies, comfort

Short Answer

5. It means that His actions and thoughts are always absolutely correct. Righteous is what God is, and all of His acts are righteous because this is His character.
6. God's mercy is another one of His characteristics that comes from His goodness, so it is also closely related to His love and grace. Mercy has to do specifically with God's characteristic attitude toward people who are in trouble.
7. As children of God, we should seek to imitate our heavenly Father because He is righteous.
8. God sees everything and God knows when we are being treated wrong. He cares for us and has taught us to leave vengeance to Him (Rom 12:17-21).
9. God teaches us to imitate Christ. Furthermore, when we show mercy, God will be merciful to us, too (Mt 5:7).

God's Righteousness and Mercy

I. What is character?

Our character is: who we really are. It's what we _____ when no one is looking. It's the accumulation of thoughts, _____, words, and actions.

How do you know what is good character? Have you seen it before?

List at least **five traits of someone with good character**. Read 2 Peter 1:5-8.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." (1 Cor 11:1)

II. What does it mean to be righteous?

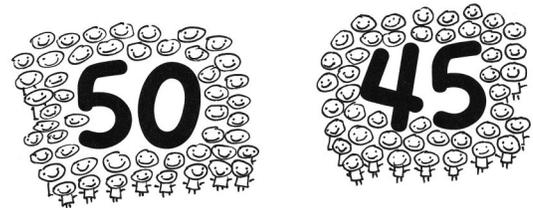
To be righteous is to do what is _____.

What is God's righteousness?

God's righteousness enables Him to _____ and _____ everything absolutely _____.

Psalm 97:2 "_____ and justice are the _____ of His throne."

Righteousness is an essential _____ of God.



Abraham appealed to God in his pleading because he understood that God is righteous.



III. What is mercy?

It is God _____ the punishment we deserve.

What does it mean to have mercy?

To have mercy is to look at the _____ of others and care, _____, forgive, and persevere.

Read Psalm 25:6-7.

"Remember, O LORD, Your tender _____ and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your _____ remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O LORD."

Let's read 2 Corinthians 1:3. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of _____ and God of all comfort."

God is called "the Father of mercies"! His mercy is abundantly great and boundless, higher than the heavens and filling the earth. His mercy is also eternal and unchanging. God's mercy is "from everlasting to everlasting" (Ps 103:17).

Psalm 136:1 "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures _____."

Because God has been merciful to us, we must be merciful in our actions toward those who are in need. "Therefore be _____, just as your Father also is merciful" (Lk 6:36).

God showed mercy to us by sending Jesus Christ to die on the cross for us! Therefore, we have been delivered from sin because of God's mercy. We ought to be thankful and keep praising God from our heart by saying, "I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever" (Ps 89:1).

We need to have God's character. In order to have God's character, we must imitate God.



Because God has been merciful to us, we must be merciful in our actions toward those who are in need.

Character! Character! Character!

Instructions: Read the following scenarios and choose which character(s) the people have based on their actions.

humility appreciation compassion thankfulness integrity understanding

Case #1



Sister Lisa and her classmates were in the middle of a test when Lisa saw her classmates cheating. Her classmates tried to pass her the cheat sheet to help her, but Lisa refused. After class, her classmates called her a “snob” for refusing to cheat with them, but when the results came out, Lisa ended up doing better than all of them.

What character does Lisa have?

Case #3



Brother Ian and his sister Debbie got into such a heated argument that Debbie broke his video game controller out of frustration. Hot-headed and in disbelief, Ian stormed off, flabbergasted that his sister broke his video game controller. But after calming himself down, he realized that it must have been an accident and that his sister probably felt really horrible about it. Ian went to Debbie’s room and apologized to her for getting so angry. He also told her that he forgave her for breaking his controller and that he could probably do with playing fewer games.

What characters does Ian have?

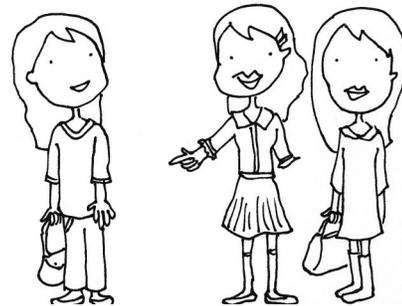
Case #2



Brother Jim is rushing to meet his friends for a movie that is starting soon. He sees a man’s bag fall apart, causing loose paper to fly everywhere, but no one stops to help him pick up the contents of his bag. Some people even step over him or on the loose sheets of paper! Even though it means he will be late for the movie, Jim stops to help the man pick up his things from the floor.

What character does Jim have?

Case #4



Sister Anne wears her older sister’s hand-me-downs. Because of this, some girls in school make fun of her and tease her, saying that her family can’t afford to buy her new clothes. But Anne never listens to them, and instead makes it a point to say that she likes the clothes she wears. Anne’s close friends are all amazed at how happy she is despite the teasing, and they see how Anne loves her family and is peaceful even when she doesn’t have as many nice things as others.

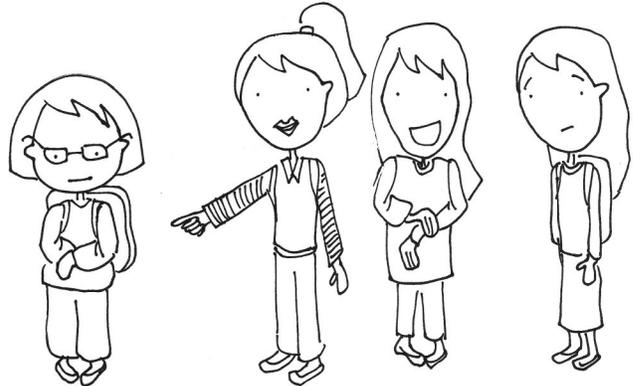
What characters does Anne have?

What Would We Do to Be More like Christ?

Instructions: Read the following scenarios and write down what you would do to be more like Jesus Christ.

1. During lunchtime, your school friends make fun of a disabled classmate, imitating her and calling her mean names.

I would...



2. While playing with someone in the house, you accidentally knock over and break your mother's expensive vase.

I would...



3. During dinnertime, your sister spills a bottle of milk all over your favorite book.

I would...



E2 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 1—God's Righteousness and Mercy

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Deuteronomy 6:18a)**

Fill In the Blank

1. (Psalm 97:2) "_____ and justice are the _____ of His throne."
2. (Genesis 18:25) "Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the _____ with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the _____; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"
3. (Psalm 25:6-7) "Remember, O LORD, Your tender _____ and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your _____ remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O LORD."
4. (2 Corinthians 1:3) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of _____ and God of all _____."

Short Answer

5. What does it mean to say that God is righteous?
6. What is God's mercy?
7. Why do we need to love righteousness?
8. Why is it important not to seek revenge against those who have sinned against us?
9. Why is it that when we have the opportunity to show mercy, we should do it right away?