

I Want to Know You...The Attributes of God  
#25--God is Merciful

**HOOK:** There were two men in the same city--one rich, the other poor. The rich man had lots of money, animals and food. The poor man had nothing but a little lamb. He bought the lamb when it was young and raised it. He loved this lamb and it became part of his family. The rich man wanted to impress a visitor who had come to town but he didn't want to use what he had so he stole the lamb from the poor man. This, of course, wasn't right at all! The rich man had so much but took what belonged to someone else.

**BOOK:** The story I just told you was one that a prophet named Nathan told King David in the Bible, in the book of 2 Samuel. When King David heard this story he was furious and said the rich man should be severely punished! What King David didn't know was that HE was the rich man in the story, only King David didn't take someone's lamb, he took someone's wife. He fell in love with her and wanted her for himself. This was a great sin in God's eyes and then he sinned again to cover up the first sin! David was heartbroken when he realized he was like the rich man and how much his sin hurt God. In Psalm 51 David cries out to God, asking Him for forgiveness and mercy!

**LOOK:** Mercy is forgiveness shown to someone who has done wrong and deserves punishment. **God is merciful** and He forgave David, wiping away his sin. Then David asked God to help him to do the right things. Because **God is merciful** He forgives us, too, when we sin and do things that are wrong. The Bible tells us that *everyone* sins and we all deserve to be punished. But **God is merciful** and He sent Jesus to take our punishment for us. Just like He showed King David mercy and forgiveness when He cried out to Him, He shows us mercy and forgiveness when we ask Him.

**TOOK:** Think about a time when you did something wrong and you were sorry for what you had done. Maybe you disobeyed your parents or took someone's toy when it wasn't your turn. Remember that God is merciful and He forgives you when you ask Him to. Now think about a time when someone did something wrong to you and it made you angry. Was it hard to forgive them and show them kindness? Just like God forgives you and shows you mercy, God wants us to show mercy to those around you.

**Bible Verse:** "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful" Luke 6:36

**Prayer:** "Dear God, Thank You for Your great mercy. Thank You for sending Jesus and for forgiving us when we sin. Help us to do the right things and to show kindness and forgiveness to others. Amen. "

## The Attributes of God: MERCIFUL



what we  
learned

Today we looked at the story of the rich man who stole the poor man's sheep. We talked about how King David was like that rich man. David was heartbroken about his sin and needed God's forgiveness and mercy. God is merciful and forgave King David when he cried out to Him. Just like God was merciful to David, God shows mercy to us when we sin. He sent Jesus to take our punishment. And just like God shows us mercy and forgiveness, we need to do the same for those who have wronged us.



memory  
verse

**“Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:36**



parent/child  
activity

Gather some paper, crayons, markers or other supplies and sit down together to make a thank you card to God! Write the words “Thank You” on the paper and have your child decorate it, drawing designs or pictures. As you enjoy being creative together, talk about the wonderful gift of God's mercy! Put the picture/card in a place where you can see every day and remember our Merciful God.



daily prayer

“Dear God, Thank you for Your great mercy.  
Thank You for sending Jesus and for forgiving us  
when we sin. Help us to do the right things and to  
show kindness and forgiveness to others. Amen.”

the learning  
**TLC**  
continues