

GOD'S STICKY MERCY

This free activity will stick in the children's memories as they participate in an activity about God's mercy.

TOPICS:

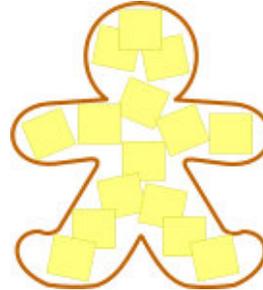
Knowing God, Mercy

MATERIALS:

Posterboard, black marker, self-stick note pads

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



PREPARATION:

Draw a body outline on the poster board (similar to that of a gingerbread man) and set it on the floor.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Ask the children to sit with you in a circle around the poster. Then, place one sticky notepad between every two children. Explain that God is merciful and gives us second chances when we do bad things because He loves us. Instruct the class to pick up a sticky note every time you read a prompt and place the note somewhere on the poster to show that God's mercy "covers" our sin.

Say, "God's mercy covers me when..."

1. I don't share.
2. My words are mean or hateful.
3. I get angry.
4. I hit someone.
5. I disobey my parents.
6. I take a friend's toy.
7. I'm impatient.
8. I tease a friend.

Tell the children that we shouldn't keep doing bad things just because God is merciful. Explain that we should be thankful for His mercy because it protects us from the forever punishment of our sin (being separated from God when we die). Point out that the entire body on the poster is covered in sticky notes, just like our bodies are covered by God's mercy. Also, emphasize that God's mercy allows us to have a change of heart. When we repent or turn away from sin, we can join Jesus and follow Him.

Timesaving Option: Place several sticky notes on the poster ahead of time.

Increased-Difficulty Option: Ask the children to come up with additional times when God shows us mercy.

GOD IS RICH IN MERCY

A Free Bible craft that reminds children of God's rich mercy.

TOPICS:

Knowing God, Mercy

MATERIALS:

Bible activity page [ATTACHED]
Construction paper, glitter paint
Sponge brush, jewel stickers, baby wipes
Marker, crayons (Optional)



DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

PREPARATION:

Before class print out an activity page for each child in class.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Apply glitter paint to each child's hands and have students place their painted hands on the paper to create hand prints. Tell each child that God is rich in mercy to us, so we should also give second chances to people who hurt our feelings. Explain that God is merciful, and encourage the class to discuss their artwork with others as it relates to God's mercy.

Timesaving Option: Outline each child's hand with a marker and allow the children to use jeweled stickers or crayons instead of glitter paint to decorate their craft.

Increased-Difficulty Option: Allow the children to continue decorating their craft with crayons and jeweled stickers.

GOD IS RICH IN MERCY

Ephesians 2:4-5

THE UNMERCIFUL SERVANT

The children will act out a story to remind them to be merciful.

TOPICS:

Knowing God, Mercy

MATERIALS:

None



DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION:

Explain to the children that they will be acting out a story about a servant who was not merciful. Help them spread out across the room so they will have plenty of space to participate.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Perform each prompt's action while telling the story and ask the children to copy your movements:

1. *(Sitting on your knees while holding your hands up in the air as if begging for mercy.)* There once was a servant who owed the king a lot of money and he couldn't repay it. He begged the king for mercy.
2. *(Proudly walk with your head held high.)* The king told the servant that he was going to sell his entire family as slaves to pay the debt. But then the king decided to give him a second chance; he forgave the servant instead of punishing him.
3. *(Pointing and shaking your finger with a mean face.)* After the king had shown the servant mercy, the servant called upon his friend who owed him money. The servant demanded that his friend repay him, but his friend couldn't. The servant was furious and had his friend arrested. Even though the servant had been in a similar situation where he had been shown mercy, he did not give his friend a second chance.
4. *(Crossing your arms with a stern face.)* The king heard that the servant had been unmerciful with his friend even though the servant had been given a second chance. The king was angry and threw the servant into jail.
5. *(Walking with a drooping head and shoulders.)* The servant was unkind and unmerciful even though he had been given a second chance.
6. *(Standing with open arms and a smiling face.)* God tells us in the Bible, Matthew 18, that we should give mercy to others because He is happy when He gives mercy to us.