

THE MERCY MISSION

Family Study



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John 8:1-11 KJV | Faith - Family - Adventure



TEACH

1. The Trap at the Temple

Read John 8:1-6 KJV. Jesus was teaching in the temple when the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman before Him. John says they were tempting Him and seeking something they could use to accuse Him. The scene was a trap, not merely a sincere request for wisdom.

Scripture does not tell us what Jesus wrote on the ground, so we should not pretend to know.

What clues reveal the accusers' purpose?

How did Jesus respond before answering?



SCRIPTURE INVESTIGATION

2. The Crowd Looks Inward

“He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.” - John 8:7 KJV. Jesus did not say sin did not matter. His answer confronted people eager to condemn another while standing as her accusers.

Big truth: Before correcting somebody else, examine your own heart, motives, and need for grace.

Why should self-examination come before correction?

How is helping someone different from humiliating them?



OBSERVATION

3. Beginning at the Eldest

John 8:9 says the accusers were convicted by their own conscience and went out one by one, beginning at the eldest. The passage does not tell us every private thought they had. It does show that the accusing crowd dispersed.

Notice what Scripture says - and what it does not say. Careful Bible study avoids inventing details.

What changed after Jesus' words?

What do you notice about the stones that were never thrown?



TEACH + MODEL

4. Mercy and Truth Together

“Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.” - John 8:11 KJV. Both halves matter. Jesus did not join the crowd's condemnation, and He did not call sin good. Biblical mercy is not revenge, and it is not pretending wrong is right.

Mercy can forgive while truth still names what happened, seeks repair, uses wise boundaries, or asks for help.

Write one example of mercy that still tells the truth.

Write one example of a response that looks kind but actually ignores a serious wrong.



REAL-LIFE WISDOM

5. Forgiveness Is Not Pretending

Forgiveness releases personal vengeance and the desire to keep making someone pay. It does not require calling evil good. Wise boundaries, trusted-adult help, appropriate consequences, restitution, and forgiveness can exist together.

Safety matters: A child should never be pressured to hide ongoing harm in the name of forgiveness.

If someone keeps hurting you, who is a safe adult you can tell?

What might repair or restitution look like after a wrong?



GUIDED PRACTICE

6. Family Mercy Lab

Use a real disagreement that is safe to discuss. Tell the truth about what happened. Name your own part. Choose a merciful response. Then decide whether apology, repair, a boundary, or trusted-adult help is needed.

Try this order: Tell the truth -> check your heart -> choose mercy -> make the next wise move.

What happened?

What was my part?

What would truthful mercy do next?



MASTERY

7. Mercy Compass Check

A sibling breaks your project, admits it, and apologizes. You could shame them all week; say it never mattered; or forgive them while asking them to help repair what they can. Which response best combines mercy and truth? Explain why.

Mastery means you can explain why forgiveness, truth, repair, boundaries, and wise help are not enemies.

My choice and reason:

One sentence I want to remember from this study:



PARENT / TEACHER GUIDE

8. Teach Mercy Without Hiding Harm

Teaching goal: help children distinguish condemnation and revenge from truthful correction, forgiveness, wise boundaries, and repair. Reinforce John 8:1-11: Jesus' wisdom, the accusers' self-examination, and His words of mercy plus "sin no more."

Do not use this lesson to pressure a child to keep ongoing harm secret. Encourage trusted-adult help when safety, bullying, threats, or repeated harm are involved.

Ask: Does forgiveness mean there are never consequences? **Suggested direction:** No. Forgiveness and appropriate consequences can

Ask: What should we examine before judging another? **Suggested direction:** our own heart, motives, and need for grace.