

The Mercy of God

The dictionary defines mercy in this way: "The discretionary power of a judge to pardon someone or to mitigate punishment."

- List all the ways that you can think of that God has showed you his mercy.

Psalm 116:5 says: "*Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.*"

- What does it mean to you that God is merciful?

Read Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23.

- If these verses are true, then who stands guilty before God?

- According to Scripture, who is in need of God's mercy?

Read Titus 3:4-6.

- According to Titus 3, why did God choose to save us? (*because of his mercy; Titus 3:5*)

- According to Titus 3, how did God choose to save us? (*through Jesus Christ*)

Close your time of family worship in a time of prayer using the following prayer from *The Valley of Vision*:

Divine Mercies

Thou Eternal God, Thine is surpassing greatness, unspeakable goodness, super-abundant grace; I can as soon count the sands of ocean's 'lip' as number thy favors towards me; I know but a part, but that part exceeds all praise. I thank thee for personal mercies, a measure of health, preservation of body, comforts of house and home, sufficiency of food and clothing, continuance of mental powers, my family, their mutual help and support, the delights of domestic harmony and peace, the seats now filled that might have been vacant, my country, church, Bible, faith. But, O, how I mourn my sin, ingratitude, vileness, the days that add to my guilt, the scenes that witness my offending tongue; All things in heaven, earth, around, within, without, condemn me — the sun which sees my misdeeds, the darkness which is light to thee, the cruel accuser who justly charges me, the good angels who have been provoked to leave me, thy countenance which scans my secret sins, thy righteous law, thy holy Word, my sin-soiled conscience, my private and public life, my neighbors, myself — all write dark things against me. I deny them not, frame no excuse, but confess, 'Father, I have sinned'; Yet still I live, and fly repenting to thy outstretched arms; thou wilt not cast me off, for Jesus brings me near, thou wilt not condemn me, for he died in my stead, thou wilt not mark my mountains of sin, for he levelled all, and his beauty covers my deformities. O my God, I bid farewell to sin by clinging to his cross, hiding in his wounds, and sheltering in his side.