

PARENT GUIDE

GOD IS MERCIFUL

BIG IDEA

God is Merciful

FOCUS VERSE

The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.
Psalm 145:9 (ICB)

WEEK 1: God Promises a New King (Nehemiah 2, 8-9; Malachi 3)

WEEK 2: God's Angels Announce Jesus's Coming (Matthew 1:18-24, Luke 1)

WEEK 3: God's Messenger Prepares the Way (Matthew 3; Luke 1:57-80, 3:1-17)

WEEK 4: God Sends the Savior (Luke 2:1-20)

PARENTS:

The whole Bible is a story about God and His tremendous mercy. Bible teachers sometimes describe the narrative with four words: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration. God created, His people sinned (resulting in the Fall), Jesus redeemed us through His sacrificial death, and restores us to our Heavenly Father. God's mercy is a thread weaving through each chapter as, over and over, God's people are given the opposite of what we deserve. We pray that you and your children will experience His mercy in new and extraordinary ways this Christmas season.

AT-HOME ACTIVITIES:

- Bake Christmas cookies with your child. Select cookie cutters that encourage conversation about God's attributes, especially His mercy. For example, an angel cookie can remind us that in His mercy, God sent messengers to tell shepherds the Good News of Christ's arrival. A heart-shaped cookie can also help us remember that God loves us even when we fail Him. Let the children come up with their ideas. You may be surprised at how God is speaking to them!
- Invite your child to help you wrap gifts. As you work, ask how gift-giving can be an act of mercy. (Mercy means "not getting what you deserve.") Before you clean up, pray for everyone who will receive your gifts.
- Christmas is a fantastic time to establish faith traditions in the home. You could choose a carol to sing each week, light an Advent wreath at dinner, create a Jesse Tree, or find a way to serve others together. As you incorporate new practices into the rhythm of your life, look for ways to point out God's mercy when you notice it. Pray that God will help You see how much He loves You and Your children.

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