

## ***God Offers Mercy to all Sinners!***

**Memory Verse:** Proverbs 3:6 - *"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."*

**Main Teaching:** God offers mercy to all sinners.

**Word Up:** God is Merciful!

### **Supplies:**

- Word Up Visual – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Recording for "Turn your Eyes to Jesus" "I Believe" and "Trust in the Lord" - Worship (Sing About the King 3 CD)
- Optional Song Visuals for "Turn your Eyes to Jesus" and "I Believe" (cefpress.com)
- Cup with water– Small Group
- A flat dish with water, a paper towel, a permanent marker, and washable markers - Object Lesson
- Memory Verse Visual – Memory Verse (Resource Pack)
- Cards with pictures on them – Activity
- Isobel Kuhn Flashcard Visual 2 – Missionary Story (Resource Pack)
- Verse cards – Wonder Time
- Memory Verse Token for Proverbs 3:6 (week 2) for each child – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

### **Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):**

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Worship / Rules / Word Up
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Memory Verse
- 10 min – Activity
- 5 min – Missionary Story
- 10 min – Small Group Wonder Time



## **SMALL GROUP**

### **What is Mercy?**

Have a cup filled with water. Tell the kids that you're going to have them guess a number 1-10, and if they get it wrong then they have to get the water dumped on their head. (Hopefully they get it wrong) If they get it wrong, tell them that they deserve to get the water dumped on their head, but you are going to show them Mercy and not give them what they deserve. Do this for all the kids. The Bible tells us that God offers mercy to all of us. We deserve the punishment for sinning against him, but he took our punishment. It would be like if I took this cup of water and dumped it on my head instead of yours. That's mercy. We'll get to learn more about how we can have God's mercy today.

## **WORSHIP**

To learn songs and motions, go to Youtube and type in CEF and the name of the song in the search bar.

**"Turn Your Eyes to Jesus"**

**"I Believe"**

**CLUB RULES**

Review the Up Rules reminding the kids that following the rules helps everyone be able to feel safe and learn. If there is a particular rule the children are having trouble with, do a skit to highlight that rule and why it is important.

**WORD UP!**

**"God is merciful!"**

Being merciful means showing kindness by not giving someone the punishment he deserves. Your sin deserves to be punished, but God made a way so you don't have to be punished. That way is through Jesus. God's love and mercy are for all people—including you. **WORD UP! "God is Merciful!"** (Say with children) You'll hear more about God's mercy today.

**OBJECT LESSON****Disappearing Sin**

What you need:

- Flat Dish with water
- A Paper towel
- A Permanent marker
- Washable Markers

What you do:

Fold a paper towel in half. (If your paper towels are the smaller ones, then you may want to use two still stuck together.) With a sharpie or permanent marker draw a heart on the front of your folded paper towel. Now, open it up and draw another heart on the other half of the paper towel. Using washable markers, write the word "sin" inside the second heart and scribble other colors in this heart to make it look messy. Fold your paper towel in half again. You should only be able to see a clean heart. When you put this in the water the colors will bleed through, and you will be able to see all the "sin". Gently move the paper towel around in the water and the marker will disappear.

Video demonstration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uW7DNGgdZfk>

What you say:

This heart is going to represent what your heart is like. You might think you're pretty good. You've never done anything really bad. But, the Bible tells us, (Read Ecclesiastes 7:20). This verse tells us that there is no one on earth who has only done good. Every single person has sinned. You have sinned. (Begin to scribble the heart with the washable markers.) Maybe one time you were told to clean your room. You decided to obey, but you complained the whole time. Maybe you've acted selfishly by taking the biggest and best for yourself when someone else wanted that too. Maybe you've been disrespectful to your teacher by not listening or by doing your own thing not what you were told. You have sinned, and it makes your hearts dark and icky like this heart. (show kids dark

and icky heart.) Because of your sin you have to have a punishment. You have to separated from God. You may think you're pretty good. (Fold the paper towel in half, so that they can only see the first heart, which should be clean.) You may pretend that your heart is clean. You can try to hide your sin. This water is going to represent Jesus. (Place folded paper towel in water) You can't hide from Jesus. He can see all your sin. Yet, he chooses to give us mercy. (Begin to swish the paper towel in the water, so that the washable marker dissipates into the water.) He chose to take away our sin and it's punishment. He did this by dying on the cross, even though he didn't have to and didn't deserve to. After Jesus died, he was buried, but three day later he came alive again. He showed that he was God, and that he did have the power to erase your sin. (Pull the paper towel out of the water, and show the children that both hearts are clean.) This is how God shows his mercy to us. He died so that when you believe on him your hearts could be made clean, like you never even sinned. **WORD UP! "God is Merciful!"** (Say with children)

### INVITATION



What about you? Do you know that you have sinned? Do you know that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sin? Have you made the decision to receive his mercy, and put your trust in Him? The Bible says in Acts 16:31 "Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." When you believe in Jesus, trusting that He died on the cross for your sins, you will be saved. God will give his mercy to you, and you will be rescued from sin's punishment. God will give you a clean heart, and help you stay away from doing wrong things. Will you turn from your sin and believe in the lord Jesus today? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you called on Jesus for the very first time today, or you want to talk to someone more about doing that, please show me by raising your hand. If you raised your hand, please meet me (designate location) and I'll show you more from God's Word how you can be saved.



### MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 3:6 - *"In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."*

### INTRODUCTION

How would you feel if you were having a party for your best friend, but your friend acted like you weren't even there? He played every game without you and didn't open the present you gave him. He didn't even talk to you or look at you at all. It feels really bad to be ignored by your friend. How much worse would it be to ignore God?

### PRESENTATION

(Read Proverbs 3:6 from Bible.) Our verse today says when we trust in God He will direct our paths. The Bible is God's Word and God uses His Word to direct our paths (show us how to live). Because God is truth, you can know everything in the Bible is true—you can trust it! When you have an important decision to make or when you don't know what to do, you can think about what you know from God's Word. You can read the Bible and pray to God, asking Him to help you understand it. Another way you can know God's Word is to memorize it. Last time we worked on memorizing Proverbs 3:5. Today we are going to learn the verse found right after that one—verse 6. (Read verse from visual with children.)

**EXPLANATION**

*In all your ways*—All the ways you think, talk, and act are important. God wants you to make the best choices about the way you choose to live. He wants you to do something very important with everything in your life.

*acknowledge Him*—That important thing is to acknowledge God. To acknowledge God is to let Him have first place in your life. He is the true King of everything. Don't ignore God and pretend that you are really in charge of your own life. Acknowledge that He is the King; then do what He says.

*and he will make straight your paths*—God will show you the way you are supposed to live. When you acknowledge God by recognizing Him as King of your whole life, He will change you and guide you with His power and His Word. He will give you direction for your life.

**APPLICATION**

**Unsaved:** Maybe you have never acknowledged God at all. You might know about Him, but He wants you to really know Him as your King and your friend. You can begin to know God by believing in Jesus as your Savior from sin.

**Saved:** If you have acknowledged God as your only Savior from sin, God will begin to change the ways you think, talk, and act. He will make your ways good. You can't make them good, but God can! Let Him have the first place in your life by asking Him to give you direction for every choice you make. God has a plan for your life. You will never figure out what God's plan is unless you let Him show it to you. The Bible is God's message to you. When you learn what God says in His Word, He can show you who He is and what He wants for you. Honor God as first in your life by reading the Bible to discover the way He wants you to live.

**REPETITION**

**Acknowledge the Leader**

Prepare (Choose a child to be the leader. Say the verse with motions. Tell the children that when the leader holds up his hand, they must acknowledge the leader and freeze until the leader puts his hand down.

Motions:

*In all your ways*—Put your hands together in front of you, open palms facing up. Bring them apart as if motioning at many things.

*acknowledge him*—Continuing smoothly from last motion, bring your hands above your head, open palms. Look up as if motioning to God.

*and he will make straight*—Start with your hands at your sides, open palms facing each other. Bring them forward, moving them back and forth as if creating a winding road.

*your paths*—Start with your hands at your sides, open palms facing each other. Bring them forward as if creating a straight road.)

**Sing Memory Verse Song "Trust in the Lord"**

## ACTIVITY

### Hot Seat

Have one kid come to the front of the class, and face the rest of the kids. This kid is in the hot seat. Show all the kids except the one in the hot seat a picture of something. Have these kids describe the object to the kid in the hot seat, until he guesses what the object is. Use a mixture of objects the kids would see everyday (Flower, banana, shirt, etc.) and objects that reinforce what was taught today. (Clean heart, Bible, Cross, king, path, empty tomb, ect.) Give different kids the opportunity to be in the hot seat. You may want to give a one sentence explanation after the kid guesses the word. Like, "God wants to be king of your life."

## MISSIONS STORY

### Isobel Kuhn

#### Part 2



When Isobel left for college, she remembered all the things her family had done together and how they had served God.

But Isobel had only been in college for a short time when she began to wonder about everything her parents had taught her about God. One of her favorite teachers said, "No intelligent person believes what the Bible says." When Isobel admitted that she believed the Bible, the teacher answered, "Oh, you just believe that because your papa and mama told you so."

Is that true? Isobel asked herself. Do I believe it for myself? She worried about it all the way home from class.

All her life Isobel acted like she believed in Jesus. She read her Bible and went to church. She tried to do the right things and not be bad. But she had never known God for herself. She had never trusted Jesus as her personal Savior. Now she had no answers for the questions in her heart.

During the next few years at college, Isobel turned away from the truth she had learned as a child. Why should I bother to read my Bible if God isn't real? she thought. Why should I go to church?

Isobel tried to keep herself busy with schoolwork and parties, but she grew more unhappy and restless every day. One day she found out her boyfriend was cheating on her. She was heartbroken. She was so lonely and miserable she couldn't sleep at night. She began to wonder whether life was worth living. She even thought that it would be better if she were dead.

One night she sat on her bed thinking about how sad she was and how she couldn't find any peace. She began to think about God. Could she be wrong? What if God was really out there? Would He care about her? She took a deep breath and looked up. She whispered, "God, if you

even exist...if you give me peace, I will give You my whole life. I'll do anything You ask me to do, go where You send me, obey You all my days." After saying these words she crawled into her bed and closed her eyes.

**Would God give Isobel peace?  
Would she be willing to serve Him like  
she promised?**

**SMALL GROUP / WONDER TIME****What Does the Bible Say?**

When you read the Bible, you might come up with questions that are tough to answer. Some people hear the Bible lesson that we heard today and say that God is very mean because He destroyed the Canaanites and took away their land. That's a pretty difficult thing to understand. But God speaks to you through His Word to show you what you need to know. Don't try to make up your own answers to tough questions like this. Let's use the Bible to help us understand it. (Look up these verses, read as many as time allows and share the following truths with children.)

1. (Read Ezekiel 33:11a.) God does not enjoy punishing or killing people. All people are very important to Him. He did not take pleasure in destroying the Canaanite.
2. (Read 2 Peter 3:9.) God doesn't want people to perish. He would rather save them. God is patient and gives time for people to repent (turn to God). He gave the Canaanites hundreds of years to change. He even saved people in Jericho who accepted His mercy.
3. (Read Isaiah 55:9.) God knows what's best. The Israelites disobeyed God later on and kept some of the Canaanites from being destroyed. These Canaanites caused problems that made millions of other people suffer and die.
4. (Read Psalm 86:5.) God is good (always does what is right) and He is merciful. Do you remember what merciful means? (Allow response.) Being merciful means showing kindness by not giving someone the punishment they deserve. Because of God's mercy He made a way for all people to be saved from the punishment they deserve for their sins. This way is by believing on Jesus as Savior.
5. (Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15.) God is the one who punishes sin. Sometimes when others hurt you, your first response is to hurt them back. But God will never tell you to be mean to other people—even if they hurt you first. God wants you to be kind to others.

When you find something in the Bible that is hard to understand, it's important to read other parts of the Bible to help you figure out what it means. If you want to know why God does something, ask God and find the answers in His Word instead of making up answers on your own. As you read God's Word this week, ask Him to help you find answers to questions you have about what you are reading. God speaks to you through His Word to show you what you need to know.

**DISMISSAL**

Hand out memory verse token to each child and encourage them to memorize the verse and bring the token back completed next week. Remind the kids to read their Bible this week, and to thank God for showing us mercy.