

MONDAY Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.” Matthew 9:13

The word “mercy” appears in the Bible 329 times. The vast majority of those are in the Old Testament where the word almost exclusively describes God. Yet in the NT, Jesus invites his followers, regular human beings to embody mercy. Do you think it’s easier to be merciful, or bring sacrifices and offerings?

TUESDAY He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him. Luke 1:10
Mercy is contagious! It is passed from generation to generation like a blessed inheritance. How does your life pass mercy to the next generation?



WEDNESDAY So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it. Romans 9:16
Use a Bible app like You Version to look up the occurrences of the word “mercy” in the Bible. What new aspects of mercy come to light from this study? How would you define the word in a way that could help you remember the core of this vital attribute?

THURSDAY But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) Ephesians 2:4-5
Think about times when you deserved judgment or punishment from God or another person, but instead received mercy. For what forgiveness are you most grateful? You can and must offer that mercy to others. Who, specifically, comes to mind as you pray?

FRIDAY So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. Hebrews 4:16
Our hearts are travel mugs for mercy. We are filled by God and have a chance to pass mercy along to others. How well do you show mercy and compassion? What would you like to change? Are there certain areas (at home, work, driving, when sick or tired) that are particularly challenging? Pray that you could show mercy to another person in a way that brightens their day.

SATURDAY Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36
Can you think times when someone has not shown you mercy, even though you longed for it? How did you feel? Let that memory compel you to act differently.

One way to show mercy is through forgiveness. Below, find two prayers you can use to speak forgiveness over those who have hurt you. I’ve found amazing freedom in praying in this way when I have been wronged. The lifting of burdens we feel when we forgive is amazing. And it’s deeply healing to take back whatever pieces of yourself have been left with those who wronged you.

Forgiveness:
Ask God to remind you of the people you need to forgive. The wrongs might be from years ago or earlier today. Write down the names that come to mind. Give yourself time. When you have the list, forgive each person, one by one, saying:
“I forgive _____ for _____, which made me feel _____, and I release him/her to you, Lord Jesus.”

Breaking “Soul Ties”
A soul tie is a way of describing a bond between two people. They can be healthy (parents/children, spouses, friends) or unhealthy. Now that you have forgiven the people on your list, break soul ties with them using this prayer:
“In Jesus’ name, I break all ungodly soul and spirit ties with _____. I return to him/her all that is his/hers and take back from him/her all that is mine, cleansed by the Blood of the Lamb.”