

# S.A.F.E. Homes



**"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful."**

**Luke 6:36**

## **Have Mercy!**

When we make a mistake and need God's mercy, it is often easy for us to believe God for it. What can be difficult sometimes is to have mercy on others, especially if we feel like they have not done anything to deserve it. But that is exactly what God wants! He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us... unconditionally.

Matthew, chapter 18, tells the story of a servant who owed his master a lot of money. He begged the master to have mercy on him because he could not repay the debt he owed him. The master did have mercy and forgave him of his debt. Wow! Was he relieved! He thought the master was going to throw him into prison, but he did not. He forgave him, even though he did not have to.


That same servant went out and found another man who owed money to him. The man begged and pleaded for more time to pay him back, but instead of showing him mercy, he had the man thrown into prison. This servant had an unforgiving attitude. When the master heard what the servant had done, he was very angry and had the servant imprisoned.

In the story of the unmerciful servant, Jesus is demonstrating God's forgiveness and mercy on the world while also stressing the importance of forgiving others. The first servant had been forgiven and he should have also shown forgiveness. In the same way God has forgiven us of all our sins, we should forgive others from a heart of thankfulness for the grace to which we are also debtors.

**Family Prayer: Lord, help me never forget the mercy and grace you have shown me and help me to show that same mercy and grace to others. In Jesus' name!**



**Includes  
Family  
Activities**



**Want more?  
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Bonus  
Pages**

## Family Activities



### Seventy times Seven

Give each family member a bag of shelled sunflower seeds and a paper plate. Start each member out with 7 seeds. Peter asked Jesus, should we forgive those who sin against us 7 times? Jesus replied, NO! But rather 70 x 7!! That's 490 times! Add a lot more seeds to each plate. Now the original 7 are lost under the pile. Enjoy your snack as you realize just how merciful Jesus wants us to be.

### Let's talk!

It is a fact that if you live long enough, someone is going to do something to hurt your feelings or cause you pain. Talk about different things that have happened to each of you, and the ways that you responded. Did you show forgiveness? If not, how could you have handled it with more mercy and compassion?

As a family, look for opportunities to share mercy with others. Maybe it is someone who is always alone and rudely rejects efforts to be included. Make a special effort to include them in your group gatherings. Maybe it is helping others at a homeless shelter, assisting with meals and offering encouragement. Try to make a difference in someone's life this week.



## Additional Challenges

The Bible offers many examples of mercy, both by God and individual people. For example:

- Noah being saved from the flood (Genesis 6 – 8)
- Abraham not having to sacrifice his son Isaac (Genesis 22)
- The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)
- David not killing King Saul (I Samuel 24)
- Jesus healing the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5)

After reading these stories, think of the ways that mercy changed the course of these lives and history as we know it. What could have been the impact if mercy were not present in these situations?

# Have Mercy!

U M N C P N L T H J W F T E E  
C N N E C R N N W H O X H V K  
G D C B V A I S E R E U A O A  
R T H O V I C S G P H Q N L T  
A V B R N M G I O J D A K G S  
C S E E E D V R X N S J F V I  
E S D R D E I F O R B L U R M  
E T C X N C C T Z F Q Z L L C  
U Y Y E F V R H I O I C N P F  
M A S T E R S Z B O N S E T J  
U S L U F I C R E M N U S E U  
Y A P E R L D Q B I Z A S V Q  
X A Y W V S C C S B J H L K B  
B L P V B S C Q X R Y Z J L A  
A U Z F P X P T Z S H L U E Y

DEBT  
GRACE  
MERCY  
REPAY  
THANKFULNESS

FORGIVEN  
LOVE  
MISTAKE  
SERVANT  
UNCONDITIONALLY

FORGIVENESS  
MASTER  
PRISON  
SINS  
UNMERCIFUL

I will show Mercy!

