

GNCOMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

SERMON SERIES: "MAKE IT TO MATURITY"

SERMON TITLE: "MERCY ON DISPLAY"

DATE PREACHED: SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD 2019

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◆ **Facilitator NOTE:** AS YOU PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME, LOOK THROUGH THE PASSAGES/QUESTIONS BELOW TO HELP YOURSELF PRIORITIZE THE THINGS THAT YOU DEFINITELY WANT TO COVER WITH THE TIME YOU HAVE AVAILABLE. YOU LIKELY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COVER ALL THIS MATERIAL. TRY TO KEEP THE STUDIES TO AROUND AN HOUR FOR THE KIDS/KIDS-HELPERS SAKE.

•✎ SERMON IN A SENTENCE:

"THE VERY THINGS THAT YOU WANT TO CONCEAL ARE THE EXACT THINGS THAT GOD WANTS TO DISPLAY."

(use the questions you want to use, ignore the ones you don't want to use, and add any that you think would be good)

WARM UP QUESTIONS:

- ☞ How would you describe God's mercy?
- ☞ How does your life and story have God's grace and mercy imprinted on it?
- ☞ Is there any follower of Jesus that doesn't have a redemption story from God?
- ☞ Why is it often so hard for people to share with others what God has personally done in their life?

READ: 1 Timothy 1:12-17 — "12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that He considered me trustworthy, appointing me to His service.

13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His immense patience as an example for those who would believe in Him and receive eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

DIVE IN DEEPER:

1 Timothy 1:12-14 — “**12** I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that He considered me trustworthy, appointing me to His service. **13** Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. **14** The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.”

- 🗨️ What made Paul “trustworthy” in God’s sight, especially given his checkered past?
- 🗨️ What was Paul’s story leading up to giving his life to Jesus, and what was his conversion story? (Saul/Paul’s conversion story: Acts 9)
- 🗨️ Do you think people struggle to own or share their personal story since it may not be a Saul to Paul type of dramatic conversion? Why shouldn’t it be this way?
- 🗨️ Did Paul receive mercy because he acted in ignorance and unbelief, or did Paul need mercy because of his ignorance and unbelief?
- 🗨️ Verse 14: Do you actually believe that God desires and is faithful to pour out His grace, faith, and love abundantly, or does He only give people just enough to escape hell? What’s the difference make in our lives?

1 Timothy 1:15-17 — “**15** Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. **16** But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His immense patience as an example for those who would believe in Him and receive eternal life. **17** Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

- 🗨️ Who did Jesus come into this world to save? Is this how most Christians act and share their faith?

- 🗨️ How does Paul's personal story give you hope, and how should it give you hope for unbelievers you know or will meet?
- 🗨️ How are you personally and actively working to deliberately DISPLAY God's redemptive story in your life for others to see, so you can point them to Jesus?
- 🗨️ How grateful are you for God's patience on your life?
- 🗨️ Verse 17: Which name or characteristic of Jesus really sticks out to you the most? Why?

TAKE THIS HOME WITH YOU "TAKEAWAY":

- ☀️ **MY GOOD NEWS** - Share Your Story. Go to: GoodNewsFamily.org/MyStory or on our "Good News Powell" Mobile App.
- ☀️ How are you allowing God to redeem your story and how are you sharing that redemptive story with others, for the glory of God?

❖ Close in prayer.

MATCHING THEME IDEAS FOR THE KID'S LESSON:

- I'd encourage a worship time if possible (youtube works great {Lifetree Kids & Bible Project}).
- Ask them if they have any things in their life that they need Jesus' help with, and then pray for the requests of the group.
- And feel free to ask any of the kids if they'd like to say a prayer for the group.

▶ **Read 1 Timothy 1:15** — “**15** Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”

Ask the kiddos questions like:

- Who did Jesus come to save? (sinners)
- Who is a sinner? (everyone)
- Does Jesus love you? (yes)

Activity Ideas:

- 👤 Have each kid create a poster/sign on a piece of paper that shows them pointing people to Jesus.