

GO DEEPER

BOTTOM LINE

**WHEN WE ARE UNDER
PRESSURE, GOD IS
MERCIFUL**

MEMORY VERSE

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.
2 Corinthians 4:7-9 (NIV)

DAILY DEVOTIONS

DAY 1: WISE IN THEIR OWN EYES

READ - Judges 21:25, Proverbs 3:7, Isaiah 5:21

Why did the Israelites need the judges? Because they were wise in their own eyes. But what does that mean? Basically, if someone thought a choice was good for them they would do it no matter how their choice affected others. What a mess life would be if everyone lived that way! The book of Judges reminds that no matter how wise you think you are, you still need wisdom from God. He is the only One who can guide us and deliver us from our sin. **Remember: When we are under the pressure, God is merciful!**

DAY 2: GOD IS MERCIFUL

READ - Micah 7:18, Psalm 145:8

Can you think of a time you did something wrong, and you were caught, but you didn't have to take the punishment? That is mercy. When you deserve a punishment and are given a second chance, that is mercy. God showed the Israelites mercy time and time again. If we are willing to ask forgiveness and turn from the wrong we are doing, God will forgive us every time! **Remember: When we are under pressure, God is merciful!**

DAY 3: JESUS IS OUR SUBSTITUTE

READ - Ephesians 2:8-9

Every decision that God makes is perfect and completely just, which means that even if we don't understand it, God is always fair. He is a good judge who cannot and does not allow evil to go unpunished. This means that God must punish sin. The problem that we all face is that we are sinners. We deserve justice. God's justice is why we need a substitute, and He sent Jesus to become that substitute. Instead of justice, those who place their faith in Jesus receive mercy. **Remember: When we are under pressure, God is merciful!**

DAY 4: HIS MERCY NEVER RUNS OUT

READ - 2 Corinthians 12:9, 1 John 1:9

Without a leader the Israelites struggled to follow and obey God. Where in your life do you struggle to obey God? God wants you to ask Him for forgiveness when we do wrong. His mercy is new every morning and He never runs out. If you want to know how to obey God, He has it all written out for you in His Word, the Bible. God knows you will still mess up sometimes, but when you do He is waiting for you to come back to Him. **Remember: When we are under pressure, God is merciful!**

DAY 5: SHOW MERCY TO OTHERS

READ - Micah 6:8, Luke 6:36, Matthew 5:7, Colossians 3:13

Find a mirror in your house and look at it. What do you see? If you have a good mirror, you should see your reflection and it should look just like you! God wants His children to reflect Him and His mercy to others. Showing mercy to others can be hard, especially because of our sin. But, God gives us mercy and second chances, and He wants us to give second chances to others too. God wants us to be a reflection of His mercy to others. **Remember: When we are under pressure, God is merciful!**



JUDGES GET MOVING

Materials: Hydrogel Beads, Frying Pan, Cool Pan

STOP: YOU WILL NEED A TRUSTED ADULT TO HELP YOU WITH THIS EXPERIMENT

Carefully put lots of hydrogel beads into a hot frying pan. The hot pan represents the judge. These hydrogel beads represent the people of Israel. They are on fire for God! They jump, move and make lots of noise. But then after a while this happens: The judge dies. Turn the fire off beneath the hot pan. Take the hydrogel beads out of the hot pan and put them in a cold pan. They stop moving. They stop living for God. They don't put their trust in God any more. Instead they put their trust in idols. They start sinning again and they even start to forget about God. And what does God do?

He sends them enemies who destroy their crops and make their lives miserable. After a while they start praying to God for deliverance.

He sends a new judge. Turn the fire on underneath the hot pan. With the help and leadership of the judge they defeat their enemies.

Put the hydrogel beads back into the hot pan. They will start to move towards God again. But eventually the people fall back into their old ways.

You can take them out again and repeat the process. This is what kept on happening to the people of Israel and their relationship with God.



UNLIMITED MERCY

Materials: Eye Dropper, Bathtub of Water

We all love mercy, but do you ever wonder how much mercy God really has. Will He run out? One day will He stop giving us mercy? That's why Lamentations 3:22-23 is such an encouraging verse because it tells us that God's mercy is new each and every day.

Fill your bathtub with water. How many drops of water do you think are in your tub? Use your eye dropper and try to count them....Okay it is impossible right?!? There are thousands of drops of water in your tub. But do you think that God has more mercy than the drops of water in your tub? YES!

In fact, a better comparison may be to think about taking your eyedropper to the ocean and then trying to count all the drops of water in there. How many drops of water do you think the ocean has? You could never count them all! But guess what? God has more mercy than even that! His mercy and forgiveness is brand new for us each and every day.



MIRROR MIRROR

Materials: Mirror, Dry-erase Marker

As followers of Jesus we should reflect His mercy to others. Look up the following verses and read about time Jesus showed mercy:

- **Luke 8:43-48** - Jesus shows mercy to those with faith
- **John 8:6-11** - Jesus shows mercy when others want to punish
- **Luke 17:11-19** - Jesus shows mercy when we ask
- **John 9:1-7** - Jesus shows mercy to the sick
- **Luke 19:1-10** - Jesus shows mercy to sinners

With permission from an adult, find a mirror that you can use a dry erase marker to write on it with. On the mirror write ways you can show other's mercy just like Jesus! Keep these words on the mirror all week as a reminder that God wants you to reflect His mercy to others.