

Justice and Mercy Explored

Materials

- Justice and Mercy Cards

Instructions

Print and cut out the six Justice and Mercy Cards.

Call on students to read cards 1–5 in order.

Discuss the answers to the questions presented on each card.

When finished discussing cards 1–5, read card 6 to the class. Present the gospel explaining how God's mercy and justice are evident through Jesus Christ.

Suggested Discussion

We often face the consequences of our sins against others—parents, neighbors, sisters, brothers, teachers. Sometimes we get the punishment we deserve, and that is justice. Other times we don't get the punishment; we are shown mercy.

When we receive justice for our disobedience, we should be reminded that every sin against God demands His perfect justice. That justice from God is death, eternal punishment, and separation from His goodness. This is what sinners rightfully deserve from God.

When we receive mercy and forgiveness from others, we should be reminded of the gift God offers to sinners. That gift includes God's perfect love and mercy through Jesus' obedience and death on the Cross. The punishment that should bring sinners death was placed upon the perfect Savior. And all sinners who repent and believe in Jesus can receive the free gift of forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life provided by Jesus' sacrifice.

1) You steal some money from your mom's purse when you think no one is looking. You know it is stealing and you know you should never get into your mom's purse without permission. Your mom comes around the corner and catches you red-handed!

? What punishment do you deserve?

? What would mercy look like in this situation?

? What would justice look like in this situation?

2) You are really good at math. You know your friend has a hard time with it. During a test you make sure he can see your paper and get your answers. But your teacher sees it, too! You know anyone cheating gets an automatic F. Your teacher calls you and your friend out to the hall.

? What punishment do you deserve?

? What would mercy look like in this situation?

? What would justice look like in this situation?

3) You have taken your neighbor's bike without asking. You don't think he'll miss it. He never rides it. You are having a great time until you see your neighbor's dad knock on your front door and talk to your parents then point angrily at you. They call you over to talk.

? What punishment do you deserve?

? What would mercy look like in this situation?

? What would justice look like in this situation?

4) Your parents have told you repeatedly to stay away from the skate park—it is not a good place for you to hang out. Your friend comes over. You tell your mom that you're going to his house. Instead, you and your friend head straight for the skate park. You are having fun until you notice your dad watching you. He signals you to come right away. Your parents don't tolerate lying or disobedience, and you know you will be grounded from everything for at least a month.

? What punishment do you deserve?

? What would mercy look like in this situation?

? What would justice look like in this situation?

5) Cain brings an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. The Lord finds it unacceptable but finds his brother's acceptable. Cain gets angry that God doesn't accept his offering. He is jealous that his brother's offering is accepted. Cain gives in to his anger and jealousy and kills his brother, Abel. Then Cain lies to God. The punishment for sin is death.

? What punishment did Cain deserve?

? God was merciful. What did God's mercy look like in Cain's situation?

? What did God's justice look like in Cain's situation?

6) All people are sinners. Because God is holy, He cannot tolerate even one sin. The punishment for every sin is death, hell, eternal separation from God, and suffering.

? What punishment do you deserve?

? What does God's mercy to sinners look like?

? What does God's justice to sinners look like?