
LIFE TEEN PARENT LETTER

Thank you for allowing your teen to join us tonight at Life Teen. Below you'll find some information about tonight's topic. Please dialogue with your teen and encourage them to share what they learned.

LIFE NIGHT: FILLED FIRST

CONTENT OVERVIEW

Receiving Mercy

All of us have had moments when we've found ourselves in need of mercy. Maybe we are out to lunch and left our wallet behind or got overly angry and yelled at our kids. In these moments, we desire mercy.

Impediments to Receiving Mercy

While we desire mercy, it may not be easy to receive. We often reject mercy from God and from others because of various impediments. At times pride is an impediment. When we are prideful we rely on our own strength. To combat pride, we must grow in humility. Humility is the acknowledgment of one's limitations or flaws in comparison with God's mercy.

Another common impediment to receiving mercy is shame. Shame is a painful feeling of distress caused by the consciousness of wrong behavior. Mercy is greater than shame and God teaches us to bring our sins to light and face our failures. But it must not stop there, receiving His mercy leads us to give Him our sins and let our shame go.

When we show mercy to others, people are cared for, physically, and spiritually, and God's presence, love, and care is made known to them. When we receive mercy we are cared for and God's presence, love, and care is made known to us.

The Divine Mercy Image

In the Divine Mercy image, Jesus is not beckoning us to return to Him, but He is coming to rescue us. He is shown walking toward the viewer, with His hand raised in blessing. As He once said to St. Faustina...

"Be not afraid of your Savior, O sinful soul. I make the first move to come to you, for I know that by yourself you are unable to lift yourself to me" (Diary 1485.)

Additionally, the red and white rays of His Mercy are shining out from His Heart, spreading out to embrace the whole world.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. Which do you think is easier, to show mercy, or to be shown mercy? Why?
2. How have you seen mercy given and received in our family?
3. Which impediment to receiving mercy do you struggle with the most pride, doubt, or shame?