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# 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: MISERICORDIA

### CONTENT OVERVIEW

#### Forgiveness

Forgiveness is a decision to go against the instinct to pay back evil with evil and choose to forgive those who have wronged us.

When Peter asks Jesus how many times must we forgive, Jesus responds with "seventy-seven times." Seventy-seven biblically represents an unlimited number. Jesus instructs us to forgive continually. (Matthew 18:21-35)

#### Mercy

Mercy comes from the Latin, *miser cordia*. It literally means "misery heart." To have mercy for a person is to have heartfelt compassion for them.

Compassion is to have the ability to bear another's suffering with them.

#### Suffering

Before original sin, there was no suffering. Adam, Eve, and God enjoyed an unhindered friendship and unity. (Genesis 1 and 2)

When Adam and Eve choose to do the one thing God commanded them not to do, they separated themselves from God and His will and sin and suffering entered the world. Sin in its very nature is separation from God. (Genesis 3)

Temptations now lead us away from God and cause us to suffer because nearness and union with God is what we ultimately long for.

God sees us and has mercy on us.

#### Divine Mercy

Throughout Merciful we are learning about The Divine Mercy and image. We are also ending each Life Night by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

This message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary recording the revelations she received about God's mercy.

The Divine Mercy message has three parts and is easily remembered by "ABC." Tonight, we focused on "A," ask for mercy.

A: Ask for His Mercy - God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. What is the difference between forgiveness and mercy? How are they related?
2. How does sin lead to suffering?
3. What do you think of the Divine Mercy message and Chaplet?