

Weekly Family Email

Dear

Parents,

This coming Sunday we are talking about showing mercy. God is so merciful and compassionate with us. How can we show mercy and compassion to others? This will connect with serving – getting out into the world and helping others as Jesus would.

Below are a number of faith building resources for you and your family. Our goal is to make them flexible enough for each family to use in a way that works best for them.

*Wishing you all a glorious fall weekend,
Kara*

Scripture Passage to Read as a Family

This week we are looking at Matthew 5:7. Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.

*Now-October 25
Matthew 5:3-11 (The Beatitudes)
As a church we are going to work on memorizing this passage together. The first couple of times you read these verses as a family I highly recommend reading it straight from the Bible. This will help your children make the connection of where the words come from.*

It would also be a great visual to print out the words (you can find them a document here: <https://www.elmhurstcrc.org/resources/family/>) and hang in a spot (or spots) in your home where you can see it and read it on a regular basis – the fridge, on the wall above your kitchen table, your bathroom mirror, etc. Take some time to look at the words as a

family. Some are really big and your kids are going to need an explanation (feel free to pull up a dictionary on your computer, it is ok that you do not know all of the correct answers).

If you have kids that like to color and draw, they might enjoy "festooning" the verses. Give them the paper and some markers or crayons - they can underline important words, highlight words they see repeatedly, draw pictures of the words in the margins - basically decorate the passage in a meaningful way to them. Note: if you do not have a Bible please help yourself and take one from the Children's Lending Library under the west overhang at church.

Sermon Questions From Pastor Gregg and Pastor Jeff

Discuss during your Sunday lunch or any time that works best for your family.

1. Have you ever walked in someone's else's shoes? In other words, felt what it was like to be them, lived the way they live, tried to understand what they might be feeling? If you have, how did that help you to feel compassion for that other person? (In Hebrew, the word for compassion is related to the womb - it's the feeling a mother has for her unborn baby). Have you ever felt that for another human being?

2. Has your compassion or walking in someone else's shoes ever led you to do something for a person, serve a person, or do something kind for someone because deep inside you really wanted to help them? Not because you were supposed to, but because you really felt a deep concern for them?

3. How did Jesus become good news for people? How can we follow his example?

4. How did God speak to you during the worship service this morning?

5. How will you respond to this? Any ideas of things you/we can do this week?
(You can also go back to past weeks and ask if

they have responded.)

Family Prayer Time
How can you show mercy and compassion to others?

Dear Compassionate Father,
Thank you for showing us new mercies every morning.
Open our hearts and help us to show mercy and
compassion to others just as you do with us. It is not
always easy, but help us to live a life of mercy and to be
kind and helpful to all.

Hebrews 4:16
Let us then approach God's throne of grace with
confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace
to help us in our time of need.

Note: If you have a simple notebook you can turn it into
a family prayer journal. You can write down your prayer
requests and look back at them later as a family. You can
keep lists of what you are thankful for, people you are
praying for, and your prayer requests.

Imagination and Creativity Activity From Melissa V.
Test your knowledge of the beatitudes with this fun
beehive activity. Print off the attachment and see if you
can match the bees to the correct section of the beehive.
Use your bible to look up Matthew 5:3-10 to help you
along the way! Display your beehive as a visual
reminder of Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount.

Family Service & Outreach Idea
This week we are talking about serving others!
Attached is a handout of a bunch of ways you and your
kids can serve. I want to challenge our kids to try two
from the list (or other ideas that they come up with) and
serve others this week.

Attached:
Coloring Sheet and Beehive