

Justice or Mercy?

Adam and Eve

God allowed them to live, but had to curse their sin. From then on there would be separation from God, death after a long life, thorns, hard work, and pain in childbirth for all mankind.

Justice or Mercy?

Death and eternal separation from God.

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Justice or Mercy?

Sodom and Gomorrah

God spared Lot and his daughters from death and the punishment He brought to the cities.

Justice or Mercy?

Cain murdered Abel

God sent Cain away, but spared his life and put a mark on him so he wouldn't be killed.

Justice or Mercy?

Death and eternal separation from God.

Justice or Mercy?

D.J., Linda, and all believers

God sent Jesus Christ to take the punishment for the sins of all who would repent of their sins, turn away from their sins, and trust Jesus as Savior and Lord of their life. Whoever does that is assured of eternal life and a relationship with God. That is real mercy!

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People of Noah's Day

God gave the people many years to repent, and He spared Noah and his family.

Print and cut apart the cards so each student will have at least one card.

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Teacher's Guide

Use this script to guide this activity. Have students read the correct answers to the class.

Each account will demand God's justice of death and eternal separation from God. God's mercy will look different depending on the account.

Listen to these historical biblical and current-day accounts. After I read them, we'll discuss God's mercy and His justice in each account. If you have the card with the answer on it, stand up and read it out loud to the class.

1. **Biblical historical account:** Adam and Eve committed the first sin.

? **What did they deserve because God is holy? Stand up if you have the answer.** *Justice would be: They deserved death and eternal separation from God. Have students repeat the phrase.*

? **But how did God demonstrate His mercy to Adam and Eve? Who can tell me from your card? Mercy was:** *God allowed them to live, but had to curse their sin. From then on there would be separation from God, death after a long life, thorns, hard work, and pain in childbirth for all mankind.*

2. **Biblical historical account:** Cain murdered Abel.

? **Ask: What did Cain deserve because God is holy? Stand up if you have the answer.**

Justice would be: Cain deserved death and eternal separation from God. Have students repeat the phrase.

? **But how did God demonstrate His mercy? Stand up if you have the answer.** *Mercy was: God sent Cain away, but spared his life and put a mark on him so he wouldn't be killed.*

3. **Biblical historical account:** The people of Noah's day were very wicked.

? **What did they deserve because God is holy? Stand up if you have the answer.** *Justice would be: They deserved death and eternal separation from God. Have students repeat the phrase.*

? **But how did God demonstrate His mercy? Stand up if you have the answer.** *Mercy was: God gave the people many years to repent, and He spared Noah and his family.*

4. **Biblical historical account:** The people in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were wicked and evil against God.

What did they deserve because God is holy? Stand up if you have the answer. *Justice would be: They deserved death and eternal separation from God. Have students repeat the phrase.*

? **But how did God demonstrate His mercy? Stand up if you have the answer.** *Mercy was: God spared Lot and his daughters from the death and punishment He brought to the cities.*

5. **Current-day account: Consider D.J. He lied to his mother about stealing money from her.**

? **What does he deserve because God is holy? Stand up if you have the answer.** *Justice would be: He deserves death and eternal separation from God. Have students repeat the phrase.*

? **But how does God demonstrate His mercy to people like D.J.? Stand up if you have the answer.** *Mercy is: God sent Jesus Christ to take the punishment for the sins of all who would repent of their sins, turn away from their sins, and trust Jesus as Savior and Lord of their life. Whoever does that is assured of eternal life and a relationship with God. That is real mercy!*

6. **Current-day account: Consider Linda. She cheated on her math test.**

? **What does she deserve because God is holy? Stand up if you have the answer.** *Justice would be: She deserves death and eternal*

separation from God. Have students repeat the phrase.

? **But how does God demonstrate His mercy to people like Linda? Stand up if you think you have the answer.** *Mercy is: God sent Jesus Christ to take the punishment for the sins of all who would repent of their sins, turn away from their sins, and trust Jesus as Savior and Lord of their life. Whoever does that is assured of eternal life and a relationship with God. That is real mercy!*

You see, God must punish all sin. He must punish all of us. Our sin deserves His justice—death and eternal separation from God. But because God is merciful, he provided a way—through Jesus Christ—for us to be forgiven. We can have eternal life with Him! He shows His mercy and love through Jesus!