

## **God is Merciful and Gracious**

### **Reflect**

1. Who is a person in your life who has been “slow to anger and rich in love?”
2. How did that kindness shape or change you?
3. What do the words “mercy” and “grace” mean to you?

### **Read Your Bible**

- Psalm 145:8-12

### **Apply God’s Word to Your Life**

1. What words are used to describe God in verse 8?
2. Who is God according to this psalm?
3. Where do you see a need for God’s compassion, love and grace in this world? Where do you see God responding?

4. The psalm mentions God's "mighty acts" in verse 12. What kind of things does the world call mighty? How can things like compassion and love be mighty?
  
5. How do we understand the words "mercy" and "grace" considering the sacrifice of Jesus Christ?
  
6. As people of faith, how are we called to respond to God's mercy and grace?
  
7. How can our lives tell the story of God's gracious and merciful love in Jesus?

## **Conclusion**

It has been said before that grace is being given something that we do not deserve. Mercy is being spared of what we do deserve. In His great compassion and love, God brings both mercy and love into this world. With His grace He gives us a love we could never earn. With His mercy He bears the punishment of our sin. There is nothing we can do to earn this; it is simply who God is. All that we can do is enter into those promises, believe that God's grace and mercy are for us, and encourage others to know God's compassion and kindness.

## **Pray**

Blessed are You, Oh Lord. You have looked on us with kindness and compassion. You have given us a grace we could never earn. In the mercy of Jesus Christ, You have freed us from the power of sin. Give us faith today to believe and trust in the power of Your goodness and teach us to walk daily with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.