

THE MIRACLE OF MERCY

Part 4 - Showing Mercy to my Family

Lord, I want to live a blameless life, but how I need your help Lord, especially in my own home, where I long to act as I should. Psalm 101:2 (TLB)

HOW MERCIFUL AM I WITH MY FAMILY QUIZ?

When my spouse or sibling or another family member...

- Gets a few details wrong while telling a story, do I...
__ Interrupt and correct them in front those present?
__ Remain quiet, knowing I've done the same?
- Makes the same mistake over and over, do I...
__ Become irritated and lash out at them?
__ Gently address the mistake and graciously forgive them?
- Is getting more attention than I think they deserve, do I
__ Feel left out and the need to bring them down a bit?
__ Join in and celebrate with them?
- Says or does something I don't understand, do I...
__ Assume they have a right motivation for saying or doing it?
__ Question their motivation or tend to think the worst?
- I am more polite with strangers ___ or my own family ___?

MERCY IS _____ IN ACTION

Love is patient. Love is kind. Love does not envy. Love is not boastful or proud. Love is not rude. Love is not self-seeking. Love is not irritable or easily angered. Love keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil. Love rejoices with the truth. Love is always supportive. Love always trusts. Love is always hopeful. Love always perseveres and never gives up. Love never fails. It never ends. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

FOUR WAYS TO SHOW MERCY AT HOME

1. BY _____.

Love is not irritable or easily angered. 1 Corinthians 13:5

Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs. Proverbs 19:11 (NLT)

Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them separates even close friends. Proverbs 17:9 (TLB)

Don't sin by letting anger control you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil. Ephesians 4:26, 27 (NLT)

Be careful that when you get on each other's nerves you don't snap at each other. Look for the best in each other, and always do your best to bring it out. 1 Thessalonians 5:15 (MSG)

2. _____.

Love is patient... Love is kind... Love is always supportive. 1 Corinthians 13:4, 7

Don't be hateful to people, just because they are hateful to you. Rather, be good to each other and to everyone else. 1 Thessalonians 5:15 (CEV)

Share the happiness of those who are happy, the sorrow of those who are sad. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't become snobbish but take a real interest in ordinary people. Don't become set in your own opinions. Romans 12:15, 16 (PHILLIPS)

3. _____.

Love keeps no record of wrongs. 1 Corinthians 13:5b

Love is not rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges. 1 Corinthians 13:5 (LB)

So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to because Herod protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man Mark 6:19-20 (NIV)

4. _____.

Love always trusts, love is always hopeful, love always perseveres through whatever comes. 1 Corinthians 13:7b

Lord, hear my prayer for mercy when I call to you for help, when I lift my hands toward your most holy place. Psalm 28:2 (GW)

I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The unfailing love of the Lord never ends! By his mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each day. Lamentations 3:20-23 (TLB)

THESE ARE THE SAME WAYS GOD SHOWS YOU MERCY!