

**Building Our Family Values: 5 of 5**  
**“Building Our Value Of Mercy”**  
**Cornerstone Church of Poway**  
**Rich Sherwood - Youth Director**  
**July 14, 2019**

**Series Big Idea:** To build my family values on a firm foundation, I must love God personally and practically.

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”

**1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV) Remember Verse**

**Today’s Big Idea:** To build my family values on a firm foundation I must create an atmosphere of Mercy

**The story of the Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32**

**Which character do you most identify with in this story?**

- The Father
- The Younger son
- The Older son

“Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.” **Romans 12:19**

**How do we change our hearts?**

**As the \_\_\_\_\_ family, we will build our value of mercy by:**

**1. Starting with Prayer**

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.” **Philippians 1:9**

**2. Meditating on the person of Jesus**

“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” **Ephesians 5:1-2**

### **3. Practicing Patience and giving reasonable freedom**

“The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.” **Luke 15:12-13**

- **Make it your goal to be known by Mercy**

“Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!” **Isaiah 30:18 (NIV)**

- How can our family improve in showing mercy?

#### **My next right step, I will:**

- Begin my relationship with Jesus
- Keep a bridge of mercy open to our prodigal
- Tell stories of mercy given and received
- Listen to FamilyLife Today® podcast

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**Open in Prayer.**

**Start talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group.

**Start thinking.** Ask questions to get your group thinking.

**Start sharing.** Choose questions that create openness.

How have you seen legalistic or lukewarm Christianity in your family?  
How has that affected your family?

**Read The story of the Prodigal Son. Luke 15:11-32**

### **Prodigals**

- Prodigals become increasingly self-centered.
  - Prodigals think they know all the answers.
  - Prodigals demand immediate gratification.
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- Pray they will have the right friends. Proverbs 1:10-15
  - Pray they will get caught when guilty. Psalm 119:71
  - Pray that God will do whatever it takes.

Describe a time where you were shown mercy.

Is there a time when you could have shown mercy, but didn't?  
How did that affect the relationship?

Have you ever been taken advantage of because you showed mercy?

**Read Romans 5:8**

How would you describe God's Mercy?

**Close in Prayer:** Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.

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