

Merciful - God is kind to undeserving sinners

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- Psalm 145:8

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Do you remember the story about the prodigal son? (Luke 15:11-20) The son in this story did not do what was right. He asked his father for money that didn't really belong to him. Then he took that money and ran away to a far country. The son selfishly spent all his father had given him. But when he ran out of money he began to be in need. He went back to his father saying, "I don't deserve to be called your son anymore" (which was true!) "make me like one of your servants."

- How might the father have responded to his son in this story? (*He might have been angry*)
- Do you think the father had a right to be angry with his son for how he had behaved? (*Yes*)
- Do you think the father would be right to punish him? (*Yes*)
- Did the son deserve his father's kindness and forgiveness? (*No*)

We are like the son in this story. Because of our sin, God would have every right to be angry with us and punish us. Yet, God is merciful! Instead of giving us the punishment we deserved, he sent his son Jesus to take our punishment on the cross. God promises to forgive those who trust in Jesus.

Let's thank God for his mercy and kindness, for sending Jesus to be our Savior!