

TABLE TALK



WEEK FIVE

MON: ALL ABOUT GOD

TUES: JESUS TAUGHT US

WED: PEOPLE

THURS: THANKSGIVING

FRI: THE WORLD



MONDAY : ALL ABOUT GOD

In a movie, tv show or book, have you ever heard someone begging and saying something like 'have mercy on me?' What do you think the word mercy means? Showing someone mercy means showing them love, compassion and grace which they don't deserve. How do you see this in movies?

"The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against Him." Daniel 9:9

Today's Bible verse says that God is merciful. What do you think that means? What does it mean to 'rebel' against someone?

In the Bible there are lots of stories of people rebelling against God. They don't do what God told them to, in fact they do the opposite. Instead of loving God, they love the things he hates. But, when these rebels find themselves in trouble, they know that only God can save them. They turn to him and ask him for mercy (to save them even though they don't deserve it) and because God is merciful, he does.

Have we rebelled against God? What do we need saving from? Have you asked God to show you mercy?

Because God is merciful, he will show mercy to everyone who asks, and he will forgive them for their rebellion against him.

PRAY

We praise you God because you are a merciful God who shows mercy and grants forgiveness to us. We are sorry for all the times we have rebelled against you. Please show us mercy and forgive us our sins, so that we won't be punished, but will be your friends instead.

TUESDAY : JESUS TAUGHT US

“Listen! A farmer went out to plant his seed. While the farmer was planting, some seed fell by the road. The birds came and ate all that seed. Some seed fell on rocky ground where there wasn’t much dirt. The seed grew very fast there because the ground was not deep. But when the sun rose, the plants withered. The plants died because they did not have deep roots. Some other seed fell among thorny weeds. The weeds grew and choked the good plants. So those plants did not make grain. Some other seed fell on good ground. In the good ground, the seed began to grow. It grew and made a crop of grain. Some plants made 30 times more grain, some 60 times more grain, and some 100 times more grain.” – Mark 4: 3-8

In today's passage Jesus teaches his disciples about 4 different seeds planted in different places. Can you find each of the seeds?

Later, Jesus explained this story to his disciples. If you have a Bible you can read this in Mark 4:13-20. The seeds show us how different people respond to the good news of Jesus.

The first person hears about Jesus, but Satan quickly takes what they have heard away from them before it grows. The second person hears about Jesus and is really happy, but they don't grow in their faith. Then when bad times come, they walk away from Jesus. The third person hears about Jesus and believes it, but the troubles in their life stop their faith from growing.

But, the fourth person hears about Jesus and accept him, then they go on to tell others about him! They are like the seed which landed on good soil and went on to produce more crops 30 or 60 or even 100 times bigger than the original seed! Which seed do you want to be like? How do you respond when you learn about Jesus?

PRAY

Ask God to help you to keep growing in your faith. Ask God to help you be excited when you read his word and obey his commands. Ask God to help you be like the seed which landed on good soil – that your love for him will keep growing and will help other people come to know and love him too!

WEDNESDAY :

PEOPLE

On Wednesday we are learning about different people in history. Today we are learning about a teenage Welsh girl called Mary Jones who lived near Bala. Do you know where Bala is?

Mary was born on December 16th 1784 and grew up in a poor family in North Wales. Mary became a Christian when she was eight years old and wanted to read. But there was a problem...

For Mary, her nearest Bible wasn't in her bedroom, or in her house, or in her church, but 2 miles away! This is because Mary spoke Welsh and Welsh translations of the Bible were really rare and expensive. But Mary still wanted to read the Bible so she could learn more about God. Mary worked for 6 years and saved up all of her money until she had enough to buy her own Welsh Bible. But then there was another problem...

The nearest place that sold Bibles wasn't on the internet (that hadn't been invented yet!), or at the shops in town, but 26 miles away in Bala – and sometimes they ran out! But Mary was determined to have her own Bible, so she walked barefoot, over the mountains, for 26 miles until she got to Bala and was able to buy her own Bible in Welsh.

Lots of people in North Wales heard what Mary had done, including a man called Joseph Hughes. When Welsh Bibles became cheaper, he asked other Church leaders "If for Wales, why not for the kingdom? And if for the kingdom, why not for the world?" This question challenged people across Wales and then across the UK. Mary Jones made people realise how important it is for everyone to be able to afford a Bible in their language. This grew into something called the Bible Society which, 200 years later, is still working to help people read and understand the Bible, so that they can know God.



LETS THINK...

Do you think you would walk from here to Cardiff, without shoes, to get a copy of the Bible you could understand? Have you ever thought about how blessed you are to have the Bible available in lots of different ways?

THURSDAY : THANKSGIVING

“So through Jesus let us always offer our sacrifice to God. This sacrifice is our praise, coming from lips that speak his name. Do not forget to do good to others. And share with them what you have. These are the sacrifices that please God.” –
Hebrews 13:15-16

The author of Hebrews reminds us that it is important to praise God and tell other people about the things he has done for us?

What has God done for you – today, this week, this month, this year, or even before you were born?

Spend some time thanking God for all the blessings he has given us. Ask him to help you share these with others.



FRIDAY : THE WORLD

“ *First, I tell you to pray for all people. Ask God for the things people need, and be thankful to him. - 1 Timothy 2:1* ”

On Fridays we are spending some time learning about the world around us and our brothers and sisters in different countries. Today we are learning about Russia – do you know where Russia is?

There are around 118 million Christians in Russia and they make up 82% of the population. But Christians in Russia are facing persecution in three different ways.

1. The Government is putting more and more rules in place for Christians who are not part of the Russian Orthodox Church. They consider all other Christians to be Western spies and this can get them into lots of trouble.
2. In the South West of Russia, in the Caucasus region, most of the indigenous people are Muslim. Right now extremists are fighting with the army there. This is a dangerous situation for Christians there
3. Some Christians in Russia come from Muslim families. When someone decides to follow Jesus, people think they are betraying their identity. Then can be hurt by their families and their communities and lots of them flee to different parts of Russia to keep themselves safe.

Lord Jesus, please protect Christians in Russian, particularly those from a Muslim background who have found Jesus. We particularly pray for our family in the Caucasus region, that they would be strengthened and encouraged to share Your love with their families and communities.