



YEAR-ONE · WEEK-06

God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment

Complete Week Guide

Includes: Overview, Adults, Youth, Kids, Kids Sermon Activity, Family Worship, Spouses, Singles, Sermon Outline

Primary Text: Genesis 3:15

Memory Verse: Genesis 3:15

Manna Curriculum — 100% free church curriculum

God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment



Big Idea: Even in judgment, God promises mercy and hope.

Primary Text: Genesis 3:15

Memory Verse: Genesis 3:15

Week 6 Overview

God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment

Weekly Aim

Week 6 reveals the **first promise of redemption** in Scripture. After humanity's rebellion and the entrance of sin into the world, God speaks a word of mercy directly into the moment of judgment. Genesis 3:15 shows that God's response to sin is not abandonment but promise.

This week helps God's people see that hope is not humanity's idea — it is **God's initiative**.

Primary Scripture Reading

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Big Truth

Because God is merciful, He promises redemption even when humanity deserves judgment.

Genesis 3:15 introduces the long story of God's rescue plan. Though spoken in a moment of curse and consequence, this verse points forward to a coming victory over evil and the restoration of what sin has broken.

Theological Emphasis

- God remains sovereign even after the Fall
- Judgment does not cancel God's mercy
- Redemption begins with a promise, not human effort
- God declares hope before humanity ever asks for it

Genesis 3:15 is often called the *first gospel* because it announces that evil will not have the final word.

Narrative Flow in the Series

- **Week 4:** God is holy and near
- **Week 5:** Humanity rebels and sin brings brokenness
- **Week 6:** God promises mercy and victory over evil

This week marks a **turning point** — from diagnosis to hope — while still honoring the seriousness of sin.

Discipleship Outcome

By the end of Week 6, participants should:

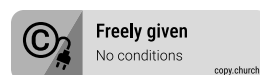
- Understand that redemption is God's idea, not ours
 - See God as merciful even when He judges sin
 - Begin to trace God's rescue plan through Scripture
 - Respond with hope rooted in God's promise, not circumstances
-

Preparation Notes for Leaders

- Avoid rushing past Genesis 3:15 too quickly
 - Let the promise stand before explaining its fulfillment
 - Emphasize God's initiative and faithfulness
 - Keep the focus on **promise**, not full resolution yet
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Looking Ahead

This promise will echo throughout Scripture as God unfolds His plan to rescue and restore humanity. What begins as a word spoken in the garden will shape the entire story of redemption.



God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment



Big Idea: Even in judgment, God promises mercy and hope.

Primary Text: Genesis 3:15

Memory Verse: Genesis 3:15

Adults — Community Group (60 Minutes)

God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment

CONNECT — 0–10 Minutes

Purpose: Reorient hearts toward hope after Week 5.

Opening Question (Choose one):

- Where do you tend to look for hope when life feels broken?
- Why do you think people struggle to believe God is merciful after failure?

Keep answers brief and relational.

ENCOUNTER — 10–20 Minutes

Purpose: Let the promise speak clearly.

Scripture Reading

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Observation Questions:

- Who is speaking in this verse?
- Who is the promise directed toward?
- What future outcome does God declare?

Resist interpretation at first — stay with the text.

ANCHOR — 20–40 Minutes

Purpose: Understand mercy within judgment.

Teaching Summary

Genesis 3:15 is spoken in the middle of consequences. God does not deny sin, but He does not abandon humanity. Instead, He announces that evil will ultimately be defeated.

This verse shows us:

- God initiates redemption
- Mercy appears before repentance
- Hope is declared, not earned

This is not the fulfillment of redemption — it is the **promise** of it.

Discussion Questions

- Why is it significant that God speaks this promise before Adam or Eve respond?
 - How does this verse reshape how we understand God's character?
 - Why do we often assume judgment means the absence of mercy?
-

RESPOND — 40–55 Minutes

Purpose: Personal trust and lived hope.

Reflection Questions

- Where do you need to trust God's promise rather than your circumstances?
- How does this verse challenge shame or despair in your life?
- What does it look like to live as someone shaped by God's promise?

Invite (not require) sharing.

SEND — 55–60 Minutes

Weekly Practice

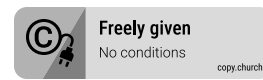
This week, when you are tempted to despair or self-condemnation, return to God's promise rather than your performance.

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, thank You for speaking hope into brokenness. Help us trust Your promises, wait on Your work, and live with confidence in Your mercy. Amen.

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God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment



Big Idea: Even in judgment, God promises mercy and hope.

Primary Text: Genesis 3:15

Memory Verse: Genesis 3:15

Youth Group (60 Minutes)

God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment

CONNECT — 0–12 Minutes

Game: Who's Most Likely To... (Chaos Edition)

How to Play:

- Everyone stands in a circle.
- Leader reads a prompt.
- Students point at the person they think fits best.
- The person with the most points gets a *dramatic slow clap* (no one is “out”).

Prompts (Use Fast):

- Most likely to forget why they walked into a room
- Most likely to survive a zombie apocalypse
- Most likely to laugh at the wrong moment
- Most likely to get lost using GPS
- Most likely to be late to their own birthday party
- Most likely to accidentally start a group chat drama

Leader Tip:

Move quickly. Laugh loudly. Do not explain the lesson yet.

Transition:

“We all make predictions about people. Tonight we’re talking about a promise God made that changed everything.”

ENCOUNTER — 12–22 Minutes

Scripture Reading

Leader Setup:

“Last week we talked about sin entering the world. Tonight we’re seeing what God said *next*.”

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Quick Reaction Question:

- Does this sound more like judgment... or hope?

(No correcting yet.)

ANCHOR — 22–37 Minutes

Teaching: Hope Spoken First

Teaching Summary:

Genesis 3:15 is spoken *before* anyone repents, apologizes, or fixes anything. God promises that evil will not win. The conflict will be real, the pain will be real — but the outcome is already decided.

This is hope before healing.

Promise before proof.

Key Line:

God doesn’t wait for us to clean up our mess before He promises rescue.

RESPOND — 37–52 Minutes

Game: Rock • Paper • Scissors — Tournament of Redemption

How to Play:

- Everyone pairs up.
- Play rock-paper-scissors.
- Winner moves on.
- Loser becomes the *cheering section* for the winner.

- By the end, the final player has a massive cheering crowd.

Leader Tip:

Hype it like a championship. Music helps.

Debrief (30 seconds):

“There was a lot of losing... but one victory. Genesis 3:15 says evil fights hard — but it doesn’t win.”

SEND — 52–60 Minutes**Discussion (Short + Optional):**

- Why do you think God promised victory so early?
- Where do you need to trust God’s promise even when things still feel broken?

Memory Verse**Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15**

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Prayer

Invite students to quietly thank God for being faithful even when life feels unresolved.



God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment



Primary Text: Genesis 3:15

Memory Verse: Genesis 3:15

Kids Church (60 Minutes)

God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment

CONNECT — 0–12 Minutes

Game: Freeze Dance: Promise Edition

Supplies:

- Music (anything upbeat and fun)

How to Play:

- Kids dance as wildly as possible while music plays.
- When the music stops, everyone FREEZES.
- Leader calls out a silly pose:
 - “Statue of Liberty!”
 - “Robot!”
 - “Sleeping kitten!”
 - “Superhero landing!”
- Leaders MUST play and exaggerate poses.

Leader Tip:

Laugh loudly. Celebrate silly poses. No one is “out.”

Transition:

“Great job freezing! Today we’re learning about a promise God made that never changes — even when everything else does.”

ENCOUNTER — 12–22 Minutes

Scripture Listening

Leader Setup:

“Last week we learned that sin brought brokenness. Today we’ll hear what God promised right after that.”

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Quick Ask:

- Who made the promise?
 - Was it a good promise or a scary promise?
-

ANCHOR — 22–37 Minutes

Teaching: God Makes a Promise

Kid-Friendly Explanation:

God didn’t leave people without hope. Even when things were broken, God promised that one day a Rescuer would come and defeat evil. God’s promises are stronger than anything bad.

Reinforce:

- God keeps His promises
- Evil will not win
- God is still in control

Check-In Questions:

- Why are promises important?
 - Who can we always trust?
-

RESPOND — 37–52 Minutes

Game: Promise Relay (Team Chaos Edition)

Supplies:

- Cones or chairs
- Index cards with words:

- PROMISE
- TRUST
- HOPE
- VICTORY

How to Play:

- Divide kids into small teams.
- Each team runs (or speed-walks) one at a time to grab a card.
- Teams must put the cards in order.
- Leaders help younger kids.
- Cheer wildly for all teams.

Leader Tip:

Celebrate effort, not speed.

Debrief:

“God’s promise leads us to hope and victory!”

SEND — 52–60 Minutes

Memory Verse with Motions

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Motions:

- *I will put enmity* – stomp feet
- *He will crush your head* – superhero punch
- *You will strike His heel* – gentle tap foot

Blessing

“God keeps His promises. You can trust Him every day.”



Kids Sermon Activity Page

God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment

Scripture: Genesis 3:15

Memory Verse: Genesis 3:15

Big Truth: **God promised a Rescuer who would defeat evil.**

Name _____ Date _____

SCRIPTURE LISTENING

As you listen to the sermon, hear this promise from God:

God's Promise

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. "

SERMON LISTENING

****Word Hunt:**** Listen carefully during the sermon. Make a tally mark each time you hear one of these words or ideas.

PROMISE	Tally: _____
MERCY	Tally: _____
RESCUER	Tally: _____
EVIL	Tally: _____
HOPE	Tally: _____

HEART RESPONSE

- Why is it good to know God made a promise?
- Why can we trust God's promises?

SERMON MAP

Draw or write what you hear during the sermon.

1. The Problem

What bad thing entered the world because of sin?

 Draw or write here:


2. God's Promise

What did God promise to do about evil?

 Draw or write here:

3. The Victory

What will happen to evil one day?

 Draw or write here:

FAMILY TAKE-HOME

1. What promise did God make in Genesis 3:15?
2. Why does God's promise give us hope?

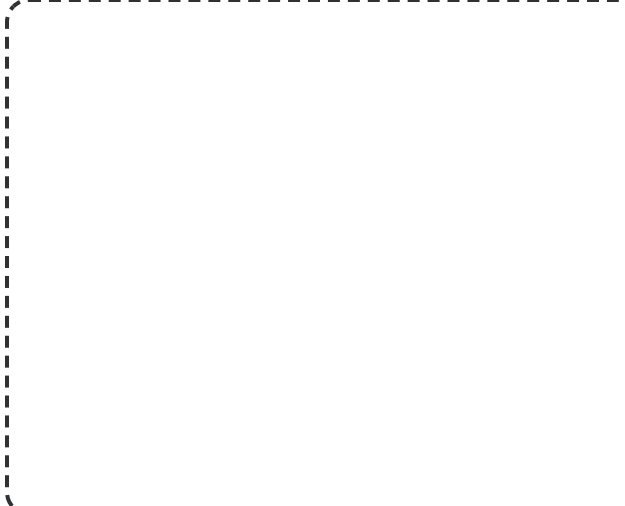
MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. "


Circle the words that show **God's promise**. Draw a picture that shows **hope winning over evil**.

 Draw here:



PRAYER

Write or draw a prayer thanking God for His promise and His mercy.

 Prayer space:



God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment



Primary Text: Genesis 3:15

Memory Verse: Genesis 3:15

Family Worship — 5 Nights

God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment

CONNECT — Night 1

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- Who makes the promise in this verse?
- Why is it important that God speaks first?

Pray:

Thank God for speaking hope when people had failed.

ENCOUNTER — Night 2

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- What does God promise will happen to evil?

- How does this promise make you feel?

Pray:

Thank God that evil will not win forever.

ANCHOR — Night 3

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- Why do you think God made a promise instead of giving up on people?
- What does this teach us about God’s heart?

Pray:

Praise God for being merciful and faithful.

RESPOND — Night 4

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- When things feel broken, why is it hard to trust God’s promises?
- How can our family remind each other to hope?

Pray:

Ask God to help your family trust His promises.

SEND — Night 5

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- How should God’s promise change how we live this week?
- How can we show hope to others?

Pray:

Thank God for being a promise-keeping God and ask Him to guide your family.



God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment



Primary Text: Genesis 3:15

Memory Verse: Genesis 3:15

Spouses — 5 Nights

God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment

CONNECT — Night 1

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- Why is it meaningful that God speaks hope after failure?
- How does this shape how we treat each other when things go wrong?

Pray:

Thank God for His mercy toward both of you.

ENCOUNTER — Night 2

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- What does God promise about evil and brokenness?
- How does this promise bring hope to your relationship?

Pray:

Ask God to help you trust His plan together.

ANCHOR — Night 3

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- Why is waiting on God’s promises difficult in marriage?
- How does this verse call you to patience and trust?

Pray:

Confess areas where impatience has replaced trust.

RESPOND — Night 4

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- Where do you need to lean on God’s promise instead of your own strength?
- How can you encourage one another in hope?

Pray:

Ask God to strengthen your faith as a couple.

SEND — Night 5

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- How can your marriage reflect hope this week?
- How can you remind each other of God’s promises?

Pray:

Thank God for His faithfulness and ask Him to guide your relationship.



God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment



Primary Text: Genesis 3:15

Memory Verse: Genesis 3:15

Singles — 5 Nights

God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment

CONNECT — Night 1

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- What stands out to you in this promise?
- Why do you think God speaks hope so early in the story?

Pray:

Thank God for being the initiator of hope.

ENCOUNTER — Night 2

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- What does this verse say about the future of evil?
- How does this promise challenge fear or discouragement?

Pray:

Ask God to help you trust His victory.

ANCHOR — Night 3

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- Why do we often wait for things to get better before we trust God?
- How does this verse show that hope comes before results?

Pray:

Confess areas where you struggle to wait on God’s promises.

RESPOND — Night 4

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- Where do you need to live with hope instead of despair right now?
- How does God’s promise speak into that area?

Pray:

Ask God to shape your heart around His promises.

SEND — Night 5

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

Talk:

- How can you live this week as someone who believes God's promises?
- Who might need to see hope through you?

Pray:

Thank God for His mercy and ask Him to help you walk in hope.



God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment



Big Idea: Even in judgment, God promises mercy and hope.

Primary Text: Genesis 3:15

Memory Verse: Genesis 3:15

Sermon — God's Mercy in the Midst of Judgment

Genesis 3:15

INTRODUCTION — Hope Spoken Where It Was Least Expected

Last week, we saw the devastating reality of sin — mistrust, rebellion, shame, and separation. Genesis 3 ends the illusion that humanity can save itself.

But before Adam or Eve speak another word...

Before they repent...

Before they ask for mercy...

God speaks.

And what He speaks is not abandonment — but promise.

SCRIPTURE READING

Scripture (BSB): Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. ”

POINT 1 — God Speaks Mercy in the Moment of Judgment

Genesis 3:15 is spoken in the middle of consequences. God is addressing the serpent, yet His words reach far beyond that moment.

This tells us something crucial about God:

- Judgment does not silence mercy
- Holiness does not eliminate compassion
- God does not react — He acts with purpose

Mercy is not something God discovers later in Scripture.
It is present at the very first moment sin enters the world.

POINT 2 — God Promises a Conflict That Will End in Victory

This verse introduces a long conflict:

- Between the serpent and the woman
- Between their offspring
- Between evil and God's redemptive plan

God promises that evil will strike — but not win.

The serpent will bruise the heel.

But the offspring will crush the head.

This is not an equal fight.

It is a wounded victory — but a certain one.

God is declaring that sin and evil will not reign forever.

POINT 3 — God's Promise Comes Before Human Action

Notice what is missing in Genesis 3:15:

- No command to obey
- No condition to meet
- No requirement to earn mercy

God initiates redemption **before** humanity responds.

Hope does not begin with human effort.

Hope begins with God's word.

This means:

- Redemption is grace-driven
 - Restoration is God-initiated
 - Salvation is promised long before it is accomplished
-

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

Take a moment to consider:

- Where do you need to trust God's promise even before you see fulfillment?
 - How does knowing God spoke hope in humanity's darkest moment shape your view of Him?
-

APPLICATION — Living as People of Promise

Because God is merciful:

- We do not hide in shame
- We do not despair in failure
- We do not lose hope in brokenness

We live as people who trust God's word — even when the world still feels broken.

CALL TO SALVATION

From the very beginning, God promised that sin would not have the final word.

That promise finds its fulfillment in Jesus — the One who was wounded yet victorious, crushed yet triumphant.

If you have never trusted God's promise of rescue, today is the day to believe His word, turn from self-reliance, and place your faith in the One God promised long ago.

CLOSING PRAYER

Merciful God, thank You for speaking hope when we least deserve it. Help us trust Your promises, wait patiently for Your work, and live as people shaped by Your mercy. Amen.

