

# Youth Home Activity

June, July, August 2018 • SUMMER QUARTER

*For Children and Teens Ages 9 Through 14*



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Summer Quarter—June, July, August 2018

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Have your teacher grade your lessons each week. Record your grade below, using A for excellent, B for good, and C for fair.

Lesson 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 7 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 13 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 9 \_\_\_\_\_

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# “Let’s Talk Together”

*Hi! Young Friends,*

Do you think summertime is the best of the four seasons? I like the weather. I enjoy being with my family on vacation. It is great fun to be able to go outside most of the time. I love spending time at my log cabin in the woods. Summer is pretty nice! It is good to enjoy the time we have with family and friends.

Your lessons for the summer quarter are all from the New Testament, centering around how God is just and merciful. Our God is just (fair) with all people. He is merciful (compassionate) to all people. That is good news!

When we understand God’s justice and mercy, we also can understand why He is just and merciful to all people. He shows mercy to those we may think do not deserve His mercy. He is just to everyone.

If God is merciful to everyone, does that mean we can do anything we want and whenever? In the thirteen stories for this quarter, we will learn some of what is right for Christians to do. An important verse about this is Matthew 15:8: “This people . . . honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.” If we honor God verbally, but our actions do not honor Him, this probably means that our hearts are not right with Him.

Many people think they have nothing to be concerned about—God will accept them no matter what. Not so! They might say, “A loving God would never judge me harshly.” But God is a just judge. He knows our hearts. In another key verse (Luke 13:24), we learn that few will find and enter through the narrow gate. One only enters God’s kingdom (heaven) by trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour.

Some may think it is harsh of God to make only one way into heaven. It is a merciful, gracious way, however. “The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world” (1 John 4:14). Jesus came to live among people to redeem everyone from all the sins they had ever committed or ever would commit. That is amazing! That is a merciful and just Heavenly Father.

As you read through the first few stories, you will learn about the justice of God. The middle group of stories gives examples of unjust individuals. We should strive to be examples of justice and love, being kind and merciful as God is. In the last several stories, we will read about the best example of justice and mercy: Jesus Christ. We are to follow His example and mirror His love, mercy, and justice.

Are you a good example or a bad one? Strive to be the best!

Your friend,

*Marilyn R. Anderson*

# Justice and Mercy

Many people think courtroom judges are the most just people in the world. Some people like to watch TV shows that feature judges who decide cases or settle disputes between people. But are all courtroom judges the most just people in the world? I think not! Some judges are corrupt or can be bribed to rule in favor of someone with money or influence. But God is always just—unlike corrupt judges who can be bribed to rule unfairly.

God is also merciful. He knows everyone's hearts. He knows who is truly kind, humble, forgiving, and honest; and He knows who is just putting on a false front. No one can fool God.

There are practical ways we can live in light of God's justice and mercy. We can show God we appreciate what He has done for us. There are certainly many ways to show God we love Him.

In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus said there are two great commandments: love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind; and love your neighbor as yourself. Loving God means we keep His commandments and are an example of how Christians should behave. The most important way to show God we appreciate what He has done for us is to accept His gift of eternal life by trusting His Son, Jesus, as Saviour.

Loving our neighbor is not always easy, but with God's help we can do it! Our neighbor is the man or woman who lives down the street, and it is also the stranger we meet on the street. Friend or stranger—we are to love our neighbor.

How do we love our neighbor? In one of His well-known parables, Jesus told about an important man who invited many poor people to his fancy dinner. His own friends refused to come, so the man had his servant bring in poor people from the city and countryside.

If your town has a food pantry, you can donate time, money, or food to help those in need. Like the wealthy man in Luke 14, we could have a picnic or party for the people served by the food pantry. In my town we had a Christmas party for the people served by the local food bank. Those who came loved it and were very appreciative.

Can you babysit for a neighbor in need of some help with her young children? Helping out an elderly person by mowing the lawn, taking out the trash, or bringing in groceries is a good way to show love. Does snow fall where you live? You might shovel it for a neighbor.

I like to bake, and I often have ripe bananas only good for banana bread. My neighbors love my banana bread (so does my parrot!). If you can bake cookies, almost everyone likes cookies. Bake a batch for the neighbors. I like to get a card on my birthday. So many people in our modern world rely on phone texts or Facebook greetings. Sending a real, handwritten card shows you care.

Whatever you do to show that you care, do it with a Christlike attitude. Let your neighbors know that God loves both you and them.

# Love Is an Action

The Morris family was going on vacation. Usually that would be good news to Susan, but not this year. “I want to stay home,” she told her mom.

“You love the cabin,” Mom said. “Why don’t you want to go?”

“I won’t be able to do anything! No swimming or go-karting and obviously no tennis. I won’t have any fun!” Susan almost cried as she looked down at her broken arm with a disgusted look.

“I see what you mean, but you do love to read. This might be a good summer to enjoy your favorite books.”

Susan rolled her eyes and moaned. “Mom, I do like to read, but on a hot summer day a dip in the lake sounds like a whole lot more fun. Why did I break my arm?”

“Breaking your arm is a bummer,” Mom agreed, “but you can make the best of things. The front porch of the cabin is the best, most relaxing place in the world.”

Susan could not disagree. She loved the cabin, but she did not feel like being agreeable. She decided to say nothing, but her eyes said everything she was thinking.

The family packed up and left for New York. It was a day’s travel. Susan and her brother, Jason, took books to read along the way and while there. Susan figured her smartphone would be her constant companion.

Arriving at the cabin, the family was surprised to find Aunt Grace cleaning. “What a nice surprise, Grace!” Dad said. He gave his sister a hug, and she gave hugs all around to the rest of the family.

“We were dreading that first cleaning of the season,” Mom commented.

“The red squirrels have had a ball, that’s for sure,” Aunt Grace replied. “I’ve been cleaning for hours.”

“It looks wonderful,” Mom declared. “Thank you! Will you stay overnight with us?”

“I could. Would you like me to stay?”

“We always like to have you with us. Please stay,” Jason urged. Aunt Grace was his favorite aunt, and he loved it when she was around.

Though a little eccentric, Aunt Grace was a lot of fun. She had never married, so she had no children of her own. She poured her love into her niece and nephew, as well as their parents.

“I’m glad you’re staying,” Susan agreed. “You always think of fun things to do.”

“Great! It’s always fun to brighten someone’s day! Tomorrow there is a benefit in the town park for a little girl who had to have surgery. Would you like to help?”

“Since we don’t have to spend the whole day cleaning today, that would be a great idea,” Susan said.

“Grace, that sounds like a very worthwhile day,” Mom agreed.

The next morning the whole family went to help with the fundraiser. Many



in the town had turned out to raise money to pay for little Monica's surgery. Food booths and games of all kinds had been set up, and some people had brought different items to sell. Cookies, cupcakes, and other foods were plentiful. Some ladies had knitted hats and scarves to sell. One man had a whole table full of handmade birdhouses.

"The town has gone all out to help Monica," Susan noted. "I want to help too!"

"I know just the place. Our church has a booth. We can all help," Aunt Grace said.

"Do I need both arms to help out?" Susan asked grumpily.

"No! You and I are going to help at the pie booth. You cut. I will dish out. You can cut one-handed, can't you?"

"Sure! We'll make a great team," Susan said, beaming.

Dad, Mom, and Jason connected with one of the church ladies to help with the rummage sale. "We'll see you in a few hours," Grace called back to them as she and Susan headed over to the pie tables. "We know where the eating is best!"

Aunt Grace and Susan worked side by side. Susan had a slice of blueberry pie before all the pieces were sold. The church's pie booth made \$650. When the donated pies ran out, Aunt Grace and Susan wandered around the park to see what everyone else was doing to raise money.

"Come over here," Aunt Grace said. "Monica is sitting in her wheelchair in the gazebo. I want you to meet her."

"Do you mean to tell me that happy, smiling girl is Monica?"

"It certainly is! She's quite thankful everyone is helping her. She had to have her leg amputated. She had cancer," Aunt Grace replied.

Susan almost cried right there in front of Monica. "Are you kidding? I've been complaining about a broken arm, but Monica has lost her leg!"

"It's all in your perspective," Aunt Grace remarked.

"Then I'm going to change my perspective!" Susan declared. "A broken arm is nothing! I want to be positive and help others."

## “We Don’t Do It That Way!”

“I can’t believe he said that, Amanda!” Julia exclaimed after her friend told her what had happened at her volunteer job at the local nature center.

“I was surprised too,” Amanda grumbled. “I was just showing the little boy a turtle, and James scolded me in front of everyone.”

“What did you say when he did that?”

“Nothing! James is older than I am. I didn’t want to correct him in front of the others. I thought I was doing everything fine, but it wasn’t the way James does it.”

Julia paused. “I suppose you should talk to him and ask him exactly what you did wrong.”

Amanda shook her head. “I don’t want to go to him. He was harsh and corrected me in front of that boy and his parents! He said, ‘We don’t do it that way!’ It was mean!”

“I still think you should find out what he meant. Maybe you could ask the animal-care supervisor what James was talking about.”

“That is a great idea! Thanks!”

The next time Amanda went to her volunteer job, she looked for the supervisor. She explained what had happened and asked, “What did James mean? I don’t think I did anything differently than we usually do.”

Mrs. Myers was kind but said, “James talked to me about this. He said that you held the turtle so that its head was facing the child. The turtle could have snapped at the little boy. It was a risk we don’t want to take.”

“I see! You’re right! I did forget what you had taught me. I’m sorry!”

“More than likely that turtle would not have bitten anyone, but if a child waved his fingers in front of its mouth, the turtle might have thought they were worms. That would have been a problem.” Patty was a good instructor.

Amanda knew she needed to talk with James. He was right about the way she handled the turtle, but he could have been kinder and gentler.



When she saw James during a break, Amanda went over to him. “Mrs. Myers explained what I was doing wrong,” she said. “Thank you for telling me, but next time could you please tell me privately?”

James smiled. “Sure! That’s fair. I was too tough on you, and I didn’t help you understand the problem. I’m sorry.”

Amanda and James gave each other a high five, and Amanda said, “I’d like to have you show me how you handle the corn snake. It’s very

active when I hold it.”

“OK, and you can show me how to hold Tinker the bird,” James said.