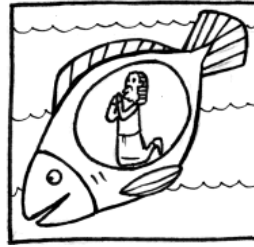


THE COLLECT

O GOD, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity; Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running the way of thy commandments, may obtain thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



1. How does God chiefly declare His almighty power?
A. By showing m and p (Psalm 106:8)
2. What do we pray Him to grant to us?
A. His g (Hebrews 4:16)
3. For what purpose do we ask his grace?
A. That we, running the way of his _____, may obtain his gracious _____. (2 Corinthians 7:1)
4. If we run the way of God's commandments, of what shall we be made partakers?
A. We shall be made partakers of His heavenly _____. (I Peter 1:4-5)

INTRODUCTION.

"Glorious to have a giant's strength, but disgraceful to use it like a giant." What does this mean? We all like to see great strength, especially when it is used in helping rather than hurting. God has great strength. You can see His almighty power in many things: in creation, in storms, earthquakes, and just now in the harvest. But the Collect speaks of a higher way in which God shows His power—by mercy and pity. Mercy is the feeling God has for sinners in misery who need His pardon. Pity is the feeling God has, as a Father, for His children weak and helpless.

There are many examples in the Bible of God's power shown in mercy and pity. Let us take one example out of the Old Testament—the history of Jonah, and let us see mercy and pity required, requested, refused, and received.



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I. Read the story of the prophet Jonah in Holy Scripture.
(Jonah chapters 1-4)

II. Answer the following questions:

1. Who needed mercy in this story?
A. the people of _____ because of their sinful living
B. the prophet _____ because of his disobedience
2. When did the Ninevites request mercy?
A. After they heard _____ message, they humbled themselves and cried to God for mercy.
3. When did Jonah request mercy?
A. After he was nearly _____, Jonah remembered God and prayed to Him for deliverance.
4. Did God have mercy on Nineveh? (yes/no)
5. Did God have mercy on Jonah and deliver him from the fish? (yes/no)
6. Did Jonah pity the people of Nineveh? (yes/no)
7. What did Jonah pity?
A. the _____
8. Why did God pity the people of Nineveh? (4:10-11)
9. Do you think God has pity and mercy on us? (yes/no)
10. In what ways are we similar to the Ninevites?
11. In what ways do we want to emulate the Ninevites?
12. Can we have hope that God will be merciful to us? (yes/no)

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