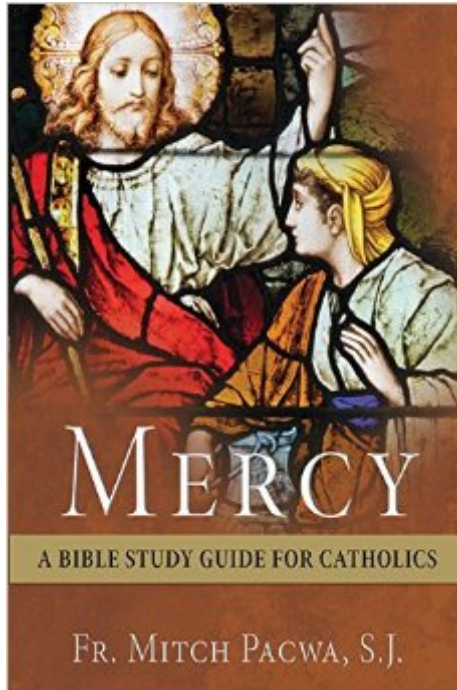


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# Mercy: A Bible Study Guide For Catholics



## Synopsis

"With age-old love I have loved you; so I have kept my mercy toward you." - Jeremiah 31:3Fr.

Pacwa's Bible studies for Catholics have captivated parish study groups for years. He takes vast topics like the Eucharist, Mary, and the Faith, and breaks them down into useful and accessible lessons we can carry with us always. Now in his new book *Mercy: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics* Fr. Pacwa leads us to a deeper understanding of mercy through the study of Israel's long, slow struggle to experience mercy. By looking carefully at their experience of turning away and returning to God, we begin to understand that God's love, shown through His mercy, is more powerful than sin. Perfect for a parish small group study, or for personal reflection, each of the six sessions in *Mercy: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics* will help us rediscover the incredible history of God's mercy in our own lives, which in turn will lead us to an understanding of the importance of extending God's love and mercy to the world around us.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After reading Â The Face Of Mercy, I recommend you turn your attention to the book *Mercy: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics*. The book is divided into the following six sections: 1. Human Mercy 2. Withholding and Granting Mercy 3. An Overview of God's Mercy 4. Mercy and Covenant Love 5. Lord, Have Mercy 6. Mercy as a Saving Act The book's focus is on Israel's experience of mercy and closes with Jesus and His sacrifice as the ultimate example of mercy. Each chapter is full of Scripture to read, sections to make notes on specific Scripture verses, discussion questions, and practical ways

to apply what you learned in the chapter. "Withholding and Granting Mercy" was the most interesting and enlightening chapter to me. In this chapter, we are presented with examples of God withholding mercy (primarily against nations who opposed the Israelites) and God granting mercy. One of the discussion questions dealt with the phrasing of God hardening a particular leader's heart and what we think it means. It is definitely a troubling phrase, but I have recently come to see it as human authors trying to explain a Divine Being, which is like trying to gather the ocean into a thimble. God is not responsible for making these leaders have hardened hearts. Instead, it is the leaders willfully rejecting God on their own and to their own demise. Like the many Bible Studies from Our Sunday Visitor that Fr. Mitch Pacwa has penned before, he has once again delivered a solid Bible Study for the reader to use individually or in a small group setting. By working us through a historical view of mercy, he leads us to the importance of us extending God's mercy to everyone around us. I recommend picking up a copy and studying it either before or during The Year of Mercy!

This paper back book is indeed more than I expected! Its content is thorough and scholarly and the format is just what you need for an adult faith formation class! The overall overview has clarity and the format is just about perfect for personal research and responses as well as private study at home with a spouse or self-development in one's faith. Certainly I must add that it is quite timely as well because I encourage the members to use this for the entire year for reflection, study and prayer for mercy. RIGHT ON, Father Mitch, thank you for putting this together! My Bible class members love the book as do I!

It depends on where you are theologically and spiritually but I didn't find this to be as insightful as I had hoped. It does help you to learn some bible passages which is partly what I was looking for. I really liked the study part - sort of like a school textbook in a way. It's easy reading and a short book so not difficult to get through.

We had a small group of 10 read and share the six Chapters for six meetings. We learned about Mercy, especially Old Testament mercy. Everybody enjoyed the Study Guide. Father Pacwa is best for Bible study!

My Catholic Bible study group has been using this as a guide. I would generally praise it but with caveats. It is an excellent guide and has opened my eyes greatly to an understanding of God's

mercy and covenantal love in the Old Testament and the New. If you read this you will learn a great deal about mercy. The scales have fallen from my eyes. That said, it is probably not for everyone. First, it is much heavier than I expected on Old Testament readings. Not what I expected, frankly, but undoubtedly necessary to understanding mercy! Second, there are a LOT of readings per chapter. Third, if you are leading the study group, I suggest you develop your own questions for discussion - there simply are not that many questions provided for discussion. So, bottom line, it is an EXCELLENT book and you will learn a lot. But if you use it in group study, you will be reading a lot and will need to prepare in depth for your group sessions.

It's being used in my Bible Study group and we've found it to be a rich source of information.

I wouldn't recommend this book for a group study/discuss format. There is a significant amount of reading to do outside of the study, which wasn't realistic for where our participants were at. The tone of the book is quite intellectual, theological, to a point where I think it lacked content and questions that would press into one's relationship with Christ. It's kind of up to the reader to draw that connection. Both the study questions and discussion questions were not effective or seemed really obvious to a point where discussion would not have been practical. The author does give good background to the texts and covers a broad spectrum of biblical passages that relate to mercy. This book would serve well as a personal tool to study theology.

I was looking for new approaches to Mercy and am very disappointed in this book. I have been in Bible Study for over 30 years. This book was difficult to follow because it was poorly edited. It was repetitive and disjointed. Beyond the text, the implications about mercy are often inconsistent with many other scriptures and authors including Pope Francis. The author uses many deuterocanonical texts and Old Testament texts and often interprets them literally. The group I am studying with is struggling to finish the book and some have quit. I will be cautious about books from this author and company in the future.

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