

Discussion Guide May 5, 2024: Blessed are the Merciful
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Warming up: How would you define mercy? As a culture would you say we are growing in mercy, or have we become more inclined to be “unmerciful?” Why is this?

Digging in: Take a look at these Scriptures that reference God’s great mercy, and our call to be merciful. Feel free to share others favorite Scriptures that you are aware of. (Consider dividing into groups of two or three to read these short passages and summarize them for the group.)

Luke 6:36 Be **merciful**, even as your Father is **merciful**.

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive **mercy** and find grace to help in time of need.

Matthew 9:13 - Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire **mercy**, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

1 Peter 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great **mercy**, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Additional Scriptures that were used in the sermon were: Lamentations 3:22-23; Psalm 25:6-7; James 2:13 and Psalm 23:6.

Discuss: What is your experience of God’s mercy? How does being aware of the mercy that you have received impact your ability to be merciful to others?

Discuss: Reflect on the seven works of mercy: feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned/ransom the captive, bury the dead. Which one or two of these seven are you most drawn to? How might you sense God nudging you towards growing your “mercy muscles?”

Closing thoughts: This week spend some time reflecting on how you have been given mercy, both from God and from others. Give thanks for God’s mercies which are new every morning. Then reflect on areas in your life that God may be calling you to share greater mercy with others.

Prayer: Lord, in your mercy, make us mindful of the gift of mercy. And mold our hearts to be merciful towards others, both locally and globally. Amen.