

Small Group Discussion

Lompoc Foursquare Church

God Is Merciful

CONNECT:

1/Why do you believe people have a difficult time believing God is a God of Mercy?

2/Have you had or do you have a tough time accepting God's mercy?

3/Moses found out that the first and greatest truth about God is that He is merciful and gracious. Why did God choose to define Himself by these characteristics first, rather than His power, his every-where presence, His full knowledge etc.

READ:

Titus 3:5

"Jesus saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit." (NIV)

The miracle of mercy is how much you matter to God. As the key verse above says, God gives us new life in Christ through the Holy Spirit not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. When we're spiritually lost, we lose our direction, God's protection, our potential and our happiness. But we don't lose our value! God's mercy in salvation rescues us from ourselves, recovers our value, and reconnects us to God. We connect to God's mercy when we realize we are not all-sufficient and we need God, when we own up to our sin, and offer up ourselves to God.

Read Luke 15:13-19 aloud in your group. Talk about the process the Son went through to receive His father's mercy. Identify the three stages of connecting with God's mercy in the passage including how he became unhappy with himself, owned up to his sin, and decided to change his life. How can you relate this to your life?

DISCUSS AND REVIEW the Definitions of Mercy:

MERCY is "undeserved forgiveness & unearned kindness."

MERCY is "compassionate treatment of those in distress."

MERCY is "compassion or forbearance shown to an offender."

What are some tangible ways in which we can extend mercy to others? Matthew 5:7; Matthew 6:12 & Luke 6:36

In our homes
At our schools / work

In our neighborhoods
In our church.

One of the hardest places to show mercy is right within the walls of our own homes. Family members hurt and are hurt by each other in ways that are especially challenging. There are at least four ways we can show mercy at home: 1) by overlooking irritations and offenses; 2) by being kind when they don't deserve it—but need it; 3) by letting go of past hurts; and 4) by believing God is working in the lives of others. What would you add to the list?

READ AND DISCUSS:

Lamentations 3:22 & 23; 2 Chronicles 30:9; Psalm 51:1; Psalm 86:5 and Psalm 103:8

Then Read and Respond:

God: "You'll find me when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else." Jeremiah 29:13 MSG. "By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us—set us right with him, make us fit for him—we have it all together with God because of our Master Jesus. And that's not all: We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise." Romans 5:1-2 MSG.

RESPONSE: We see that once we throw open the doors of our heart to God, He is waiting for us. How would you explain this grace to someone who has not yet come to understand God's mercy?

READ and REVIEW THIS PRAYER:

And as we follow your heart / We are led to the lost / Finding there a place of praise/ No matter what the cost/ So we will stand with the weak / Give our most to the least /Serving you with all we have/ Your kingdom/ God we seek /A Life of Love — (DAVID GATE)

PRAY:

For the needs in your group

For our community

For those far away from God (first name only, please)

Feb. 11th, 2018



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Message MM123

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