Discussion Guide - Blessed are The Merciful

Main Idea

This week, Pastor Matt taught on the fifth of the eight Beatitudes: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Matthew 5:7 NIV). This world is built on division, and at every turn, is turning us against one another. Whether by political affiliation or even the color of our skin, both sides scream withholding mercy. Jesus came and said, blessed are the merciful. We must remind ourselves how merciful God has been to us already, and remember that we will face Him one day. Knowing these realities helps us offer mercy to those in our lives.

Make It Practical

- We are called to show mercy...to those who make mistakes
- We are called to show mercy...to those who let us down
- We are called to show mercy...to those far from God
- We are called to show mercy...to ourselves

"Let's stand before God having loved too much than having judged too harshly."

Talk About It

- 1. What does it feel like to be shown mercy? Maybe from God or from another person, how did it make you feel?
- 2. Which one of the four groups, that we are called to show mercy to, do you struggle the most to show mercy? Why do you find it hard to show mercy to them?
- 3. What situation or person are you withholding mercy from? How can you offer them mercy today?

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in me."

~ C.S. Lewis

Prayer

Jesus, we want to become merciful people, as You are. Please help us to be quick to offer mercy and forgiveness to others in our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Leader Tips

Share a moment when you personally had to offer mercy to someone that did not deserve it. Your vulnerability will help them share a time of their own, or realize that there are people they are withholding mercy from. Sharing this may break down the walls for them to forgive.

Scriptures Used

Matthew 5:7, Matthew 6:12, Ephesians 2:4-5, Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 18:33, James 2:13, Micah 6:8, 2 Corinthians 5:16-19, Matthew 12:17-20, Luke 23:34, Colossians 3:12-13, Matthew 9:10-13, Psalm 38:4-8, 1 Timothy 1:13-15