

Looking for a Group to connect and dive deeper in your relationship with God and others? Contact Community Pastor, Beth Yokley, at byokley@myhope.church.



Discussion Questions With Emily LeVault

1. Have you ever witnessed or experienced a situation where mercy was withheld? What impact did it have?
2. Now, read Matthew 18 and consider this same question.
3. Have someone in your group read Matthew 23:13-14. Jesus called out the religious leaders for blocking people from God's mercy while pretending to be righteous. Have you seen a version of this in today's world—where people make faith harder for others rather than leading them to God? Do you see this playing out in our Springfield (and surrounding area) churches?
4. Jesus speaks of people being shut out from the kingdom. Have you ever felt shut out of church, faith, or grace by someone's attitude or actions? What was that experience like?
5. Mercy often requires sacrifice—giving up our right to be right, to retaliate, or to judge. Where in your life have you been unwilling to sacrifice in favor of mercy? Or where has someone done this to you?
6. Who in your life needs mercy instead of judgment this week? What would it look like to extend an invitation to them instead of "shutting them out" of church as we enter the Easter season?

For example-consider this Invitation from Mr. McCafferty. He recently posted this on his social media account: I'm blessed to be playing "keys" at Hope Church in Springfield tomorrow (Sunday) at the 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM services. About the service: There'll be fantastic music, and phenomenal preaching, (the perfect blend of Biblical teaching, history, humor and modern day application) PLUS there's great coffee too! The church also has a separate area for youth (Birth-5th Grade during services) and extensive programming for youth and adults throughout the week/year! Everything is all very, VERY well done! Communion will be served! The congregation is very diverse, the vibe/hospitality is very welcoming to ALL and the music is equivalent to a pro-level Christian rock concert! I "Hope" you can attend and be blessed and encouraged!