



COMMUNITY Groups

May 7th, 2017: THE FIRST STEP

OPENING

- What did you think of this week's message? What stood out to you? What challenged you?
- Do you think there's a difference between a sin and a mistake? Explain.

DISCUSS & APPLY

Read John 8:1-11

- What were the differences between the woman caught in adultery and those accusing her? How do we compare?
- How does this passage help us understand how God feels about sin? How should it inform how we feel about sin?
- What do you think it means for Jesus to take sin seriously?
- Why do you think sin is such a hard word to talk about?
- Why do you think people are so quick to judge other people? Why do you think it's so much easier to see sin in others? (See Matthew 7:3-4) Do you ever wrestle with this?
- In what ways do you try to control your image? Other people? Your problems?
- At the end of this story, the woman has received mercy instead of condemnation. However, all the other people have not. Why is confessing sin so hard, yet so important? What holds you back from confessing?
- Which is harder for you to admit: that you're powerless to change your past, control other people, or cope with your harmful habits/behaviors? Why?

Read Matthew 9:12-13

- Let's take Jesus' advice: What does it mean that God desires mercy, not sacrifice? Why do you think most people tend to think that God desires sacrifice rather than mercy?
- If Jesus came to call sinners and not the righteous, why do you think it's a commonly held belief that to be Christian is to be a good person? How would Jesus respond to that statement?
- What do you think the similarities are between mercy and medicine?

FINAL APPLICATION

What areas of your life do you need healing? How could mercy be the medicine that you need?



C COMMUNITY Groups

PRAY

Together as a group, first pray for healing and release in the places of our lives where we are powerless. Then pray that God would help us become less judgmental and more merciful. Pray that he would help us stand up boldly for the oppressed.