

# DG Guide: Attributes of God #6 - Mercy, Compassion, Grace

## Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God for His mercy, compassion, and grace toward you as a group.

## Icebreaker

Share a time when someone showed you unexpected kindness or grace when you didn't deserve it. How did that make you feel?

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## Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. God introduces Himself primarily through His mercy, compassion, and grace (Exodus 34:6-7)
2. Definitions:
  - Mercy = Not giving us the judgment we deserve
  - Grace = Giving us favour and blessing we don't deserve
  - Compassion = God's tender-hearted movement toward the broken (to "suffer with")
3. God is "rich in mercy" and has "immeasurable riches" in His grace (Ephesians 2:4-9)
4. We don't earn these attributes—we receive them and then extend them to others
5. As God's holy ones, we're called to put on compassionate hearts (Colossians 3:12)

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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding God's Character

1. How does Exodus 34:6-7 challenge or reshape your view of God? What surprised you about how God introduces Himself to Moses?
2. Don mentioned that sometimes we view "Old Testament God" as angry and "New Testament God" as merciful. How does understanding God's self-revelation in Exodus 34 correct this misconception?
3. Read Psalm 103:8-14. What does it mean that God "remembers that we are dust"? How should this affect how we approach God with our weaknesses and failures?

### Experiencing God's Grace

4. Ephesians 2:1-9 emphasizes that we were "dead in our trespasses." Why is it important to understand how desperate our condition was before God showed us mercy?
5. In the sermon, Don reminded us to "stop trying to earn what can only be received." In what areas of your life are you still trying to earn God's favour rather than simply receiving His grace?

6. How does understanding that even our faith is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9) change the way we view our salvation?

## Living Out These Attributes

7. Read Matthew 9:36. Jesus felt compassion for the crowds because they were "like sheep without a shepherd." Who in your life needs to experience God's compassion through you?
8. Don shared a story about encountering a man on the street and initially responding in the flesh rather than with compassion. When have you missed an opportunity to show Christ's compassion to someone? What held you back?
9. Colossians 3:12 says to "put on compassionate hearts" because we are holy and beloved, not in order to become holy and beloved. How does this change our motivation for showing mercy and grace to others?

## Building a Merciful Church Culture

10. What does it look like practically for our DG and church to be marked by mercy, compassion, and grace?
11. The sermon emphasised "no more filter"(thanks David!) —being honest about our weaknesses. What makes vulnerability difficult in Christian community? How can we create a great foundation for authenticity?
12. How can we pursue both truth and justice while also being merciful and compassionate? Are there situations where these seem to be in tension?

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### Personal Reflection

Take 2-3 minutes for personal reflection:

- In what area of your life do you most need to receive God's mercy, compassion, or grace right now?
- Who has God placed in your life that needs to experience His compassion through you?
- What "filter" or "mask" do you need to remove to be more authentic in community?

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### Practical Applications

Make some commitments for this coming week:

### Individual Applications:

1. Reframe your view of God: Spend time meditating on Exodus 34:6-7 and Psalm 103. Write down how God describes Himself and praise Him for these attributes.
2. Stop earning, start receiving: Identify one area where you're trying to earn God's favour. Confess this to God and ask Him to help you fully receive His grace.
3. Practice vulnerability: Share a genuine struggle or weakness with one trusted Christian friend this week. Practice "no filter."

4. Extend countermerited favour: Think of someone who has wronged you or doesn't "deserve" your kindness. Intentionally show them grace this week.

## Group Applications:

5. Compassion with trajectory: As a group, identify one person or group in your community who needs to experience God's compassion. Make a plan to serve them together.
6. Build merciful culture: Discuss and establish group norms that encourage honesty, forgiveness, and grace. How can you make your group a better community for people to be real about their struggles?
7. Accountability partners: Pair up and commit to checking in with each other about extending grace and compassion to others this week.

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## Prayer Focus

Close your time by praying for:

- Gratitude for God's rich mercy and immeasurable grace toward us
- Transformation to become more merciful, compassionate, and gracious people
- Specific people who need to experience God's compassion through your group
- Your church community to be marked by these attributes so that when people encounter you, they encounter Jesus
- Courage to remove filters and be real about your weaknesses and struggles

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## For Next Week

- Read Micah 6:8 and reflect on how God calls us to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly"
- Journal about one way you experienced or extended God's mercy, compassion, or grace this week
- Be prepared to share your experience with the group

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## Additional Resources

- Scripture Memory: Ephesians 2:4-5 - "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace!"
- Further Study: Read through the Gospels this week and note every time Jesus shows compassion. What patterns do you notice?

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Or, if you just want a bunch of discussion prompts:

1. How does understanding that God introduces Himself as compassionate and gracious rather than primarily powerful and mighty change the way you approach Him in prayer and worship?
2. In what ways do you struggle with trying to earn God's favour rather than simply receiving His grace, and what practical steps can you take to stop this self-salvation project?
3. Reflecting on Psalm 103, how does remembering that you are dust and that God knows this about you free you to be more honest about your weaknesses in community?
4. When have you encountered someone in need but responded from a fleshly perspective rather than with the compassion of Christ, and what would it look like to respond differently next time?
5. How can we as a church community practically demonstrate that we are people marked by mercy, compassion, and grace rather than judgment and condemnation?
6. What does it mean that God's compassion has a trajectory toward the broken, and how should this shape our mission and movement toward those who are suffering or lost?
7. How do mercy and grace work together with God's holiness and justice, and why is it important that we pursue both truth and compassion rather than choosing one over the other?
8. In what areas of your life are you still wearing a filter or mask, and how might removing these barriers help others see the gospel more powerfully at work in you?
9. What would it look like for you to practice undeserved generosity and counter-merited favour toward someone who has wronged you, reflecting the grace God has shown you?
10. How does understanding that God's riches in grace are immeasurable rather than stingy challenge your view of what He desires to give you and how you share with others?