

## **Small Group Guide: Blessed are the Merciful**

### **Opening Question:**

Share a time when someone showed you unexpected mercy or forgiveness. How did it impact you?

### **Key Takeaways:**

1. Mercy is not just a feeling, but an action that results from compassion.
2. We cannot display mercy if we haven't truly received it from God first.
3. Extending mercy is a powerful testimony of Christ's work in our lives.
4. Showing mercy doesn't mean ignoring wrongdoing, but responding with love and forgiveness.
5. God expects us to show mercy because He has shown great mercy to us.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How does understanding God's mercy towards us affect our ability to show mercy to others?
2. The pastor mentioned Micah 6:8. How do justice, mercy, and humility work together in our Christian walk?
3. Discuss the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:23-35). What lessons can we draw from this story about forgiveness and mercy?
4. How can showing mercy be challenging in our daily lives? Share specific examples.
5. The sermon emphasized loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us. How can we practically apply this teaching?
6. How does extending mercy free us from emotional "imprisonment"?
7. Discuss the statement: "We're not meant to control our Christianity. Our Christianity is meant to control us." What does this mean in the context of showing mercy?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Practice the "1-2-3" approach mentioned in the sermon: Kind, Tenderhearted, Forgiving. Try applying this in a challenging relationship or situation this week.
2. Identify someone who has wronged you or someone you struggle to forgive. Commit to praying for them daily this week.
3. Write a prayer request for someone who needs God's mercy and place it on the church prayer wall.
4. Reflect on areas in your life where you may be withholding mercy. Ask God to help you release those situations to Him.
5. Look for an opportunity to show unexpected mercy to someone this week, whether at work, in your family, or in your community.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Lord, thank you for Your abundant mercy towards us. Help us to truly understand and receive Your mercy so that we can extend it to others. Give us the strength and courage to show mercy, even when it's difficult. May our lives be a testimony of Your forgiveness and love. In Jesus' name, Amen.