THE ART OF BEING
Community Life
Living as a community intentionally focused on cultivating the life of Christ in others.
GROUP GUIDE

ChangePoint

Week 5: *Be Merciful*

ARRIVAL/CONNECTING and SNACK: (15 Minutes)
Spend time catching up and socializing with one another. Follow up on prayer requests and any action steps from your last time together.

SHORT OPENING PRAYER FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER: (2 minutes)

SCRIPTURE READING: (5 minutes)
Have someone read **Matthew 5:1-12** slowly enough for everyone to enjoy. Pause, then read again just **verse 7** and quietly reflect for a few minutes.

Group Leader Notes:
In the Beatitudes, Jesus offers a kingdom of lasting happiness for those who receive Him. He offers blessedness which is a spiritual state of being. But Jesus' terms for enjoying His kingdom were very different than what the Jews might have expected. Jesus' kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. He rules over the hearts and lives of those who believe in Him. Each principle of the kingdom seems counterintuitive to how we normally think about finding lasting peace and happiness.
  - The first three beatitudes show us our need for God. They are the foundation of the kingdom.
  - The next five beatitudes show us the expression of the kingdom based on the foundation.
  - Now we have come to a turning point. In the fifth beatitude we see another expression of the kingdom.

OBSERVATION and REFLECTIONS: (20 minutes)
Have someone read **Matthew 5:7** once again.
  - How would you define mercy? How does the world define it?
  - Share a moment where you received mercy.

Have someone read **Matthew 9:36**.
  - Why did Jesus have compassion on the people? (be specific)
  - What prevents you from sometimes showing/having compassion toward others?

DISCUSSION: (20 minutes)
  - Do you see people the way that Jesus does? Why/why not?
  - How has mercy the of God impacted your life?
  - Name specific ways that you could show mercy to the people in your life Explain.

SURRENDER: (15 minutes)
  - Let's get personal here… What is one area of your life, related to this discussion, that the rest of the group can pray for?

PRAYER: (10 min)
Pray for one another in light of what has been shared.