**CIBC Sermon-Based Discussion Guide**

*This guide is designed to help guide life group discussions of this week’s sermon at Cayman Islands Baptist Church. For more information on life groups and other discipleship opportunities at CIBC, please visit* [*www.cibaptist.ky*](http://www.cibaptist.ky/)*.*

****

**Get the Picture**

**-Title:** *“Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.”*

**-Series/Text:** The Flourishing– Matt. 5:1-12

**-Date:** Nov. 1 2020

**-Speaker:** Pastor Steve

**-Main Idea:** The flourishing person in the kingdom of God is the one is merciful.

****

**Group Discussion**

1. **Connect**
2. **Commit:** Before you begin, agree as a group that you will commit to having an honest discussion about this text without casting any judgment or sharing any unsolicited advice.
3. **Read:** Read **Psalm 139:23-24** out loud before you pray to begin the discussion.
4. **Pray:** Pray over the group and ask the Lord to *“Search your heart”* and reveal idols that are keeping you from receiving truth.
5. **Engage**
6. **Read:** Read Matthew 5:1-12 and look for repeating words and major themes that stand out. How do these observations help you understand the section as a whole?
7. **Discuss:** Who are the people or when were a few moments you were shown mercy. How did it affect you?
8. **Discuss:** In your life, what are places, situations, or people where showing mercy is easy for you? What about places, situations, or people where showing mercy is difficult?
9. **Discuss:** Read through both the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37) and the unforgiving slave (Matthew 18:23-35). What were the reasons for withholding mercy? What reasons do we give for not showing mercy?
10. **Discuss:** God is rich in mercy. He doesn’t just dole out mercy - he is overflowing with mercy for us. It’s easy to believe God’s mercy is a chore and not a pleasure. How does knowing God delights in showing mercy towards us change how we might experience his mercy, ask for his mercy, or show mercy to others?
11. **Discuss:** What’s the relationship between justice and mercy? Read Ephesians 2:1-5. God gives mercy through the lens of love. What does it look like to use the lens of love as you decide between mercy or justice? When is a time you’ve used the lens of love to choose between the two?
12. **Discuss:** In the end, we don’t show mercy to get God’s mercy, but understanding and experiencing God’s mercy leads to us extending mercy. How does knowing and reflecting on God’s mercy inspire mercy in our lives? As you think about God’s mercy towards you, where is a specific place, situation, or person in your life where you have an opportunity to be merciful?
13. **Apply**
14. **Consider:** These Tips for Growing in Mercy from Matt Kyser

(1) Grow In Your Appreciation For The Mercy God Has Shown You

To truly grow in the way we show mercy to others, we must first grow in our understanding of and appreciation for the mercy that God has shown us through the Person and Work of Jesus.

(2) Grow By Engaging “The Jesus Prayer”

“The Jesus Prayer “is a short breathe prayer (a prayer meant to be prayed in one breathe as you breath in and out). Its simple words are: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

(3) Grow By Emulating Those More Merciful Than You

Pause for a moment right now (no really, pause here), and consider the most merciful person you know. Consider their way of life. Contemplate a time you saw them show an uncommon kind or amount of mercy to another. Contact them one day this week, and ask them what helped them grow in their desire for and delight in mercy.

(4) Grow By Reflecting On Your Wins And Wants Surrounding Mercy

One of the greatest ways we can grow in mercy is to remember and reflect on the ways we ‘won’ in showing mercy in any given day, and our ‘wants’ to better show mercy in moments we fell short.

1. **Pray**
2. **Silent Prayer:** Enter into a time of silence to allow God to speak to you in response to everything you discussed today. Listen for areas where He may be telling you He wants you to step out in obedience.
3. **Group Prayer:** After a time of silence, close out the study with a group prayer for God’s grace to develop a heart of mercy.

****

**Going Deeper**

1. **What are your thoughts on this quote from Peter Kreeft?**
	1. There are no “good people,” and the best of us say so the most clearly. Saints agree they are sinners; only sinners think they are saints. Only fools demand justice, for where would we be if we got it? No, mercy is our only hope from God, and our neighbors’ only hope from us as well.