
TALK IT OVER

A Faith That Makes Me More Merciful & Less Judgemental

A Faith That Works When Life Doesn't - Part 17

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Open your group in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions towards the end of the document.

"You must show mercy to others, or God won't show mercy to you when he judges you one day. But the person who shows mercy will stand without fear at the judgment. Mercy triumphs over judgment"

James 2:13

Message Notes

1. Why does God expect me to show mercy to everyone?
2. How does God expect me to show mercy to everyone?

Why Does God Expect Me to Show Mercy to Everyone?

1. Because God continually shows me mercy
2. Because God wants me to become like him
3. Because I need mercy to get into Heaven
4. Because being merciful is a remedy for depression

Talk It Over

Jesus: "Happy are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Matthew 5:7 (LB)

"A merciful person helps himself, but a cruel person hurts himself." Proverbs 11:17 (GW)

Question 1: What is mercy, exactly? Why does it seem easier to judge people than to show them mercy?

Question 2: What is God's promise to us when we choose mercy over judgment? See Matthew 5:7 and Proverbs 11:17.

Question 3: In an urban context, what does an “act of mercy” look like? Think of the smallest and the most extraordinary examples.

How Does God Expect Me to Show Mercy to Everyone? Take some time and reveal some of the answers to the questions below to your group members:

1. Who is someone you can forgive when they mess up?
2. Whose personality quirks can you be patient with?
3. Who can you show respect to even though you may disagree?
4. Who can you help who is hurting?

Talk It Over

“Accept one another just as Christ has accepted you. This brings glory to God!” Romans 15:7 (NLT)

“Jesus saved us, not because of good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life.” Titus 3:5 (NLT)

Question 1: Why is it so hard to let go and forgive people? If we do not forgive people, what happens to us, over time?

Question 2: It’s natural for us to become irritated or impatient with people’s quirks. “Why can’t they be more like us?” What is the reason why you may be irritated with someone and would that same reason even matter to God? Why or why not?

Question 3: How did Jesus show us mercy when we were hurting? How can we model that response to others, so that they might see Christ in us? See Titus 3:5.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Read Micah 6:8 together and consider committing it to memory this week.

“God has clearly shown you what is good and how he expects you to live: You must treat everyone justly, love mercy and walk humbly before God.” Micah 6:8

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you’ve learned today?*