

The Good News About God Sermon Discussion Participant's Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To brainstorm ways we can show mercy to specific people in our lives over the next week.

Sermon Refresher: This week Keith reminded us that the God of the universe defines himself as compassionate and gracious. Because of this, he gives mercy to people even when they don't deserve it.

Icebreaker: Share a story of a time another person has given you grace.

Transition: Moments of grace and compassion feel especially meaningful when you know that you actually deserve the opposite. This is also true about our relationship with God. Because we're sinful, we don't deserve his grace and compassion, but he loves us anyway.

Discussion:

Read Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

1. Why might we struggle to feel confident that God will be merciful to us when we sin?
2. What is a time in your life where you have seen God being gracious to you? How does remembering his mercy in that specific situation make you feel about God?
3. In the sermon, Keith told the story of how God sent Jonah to the Ninevites, and the Ninevites repented of their sin. Why was Jonah angry that God was merciful and forgave them? How do you think he would justify his feelings?

THE **crossing** **small groups**

4. Keith pointed out that in our natural state, we're inclined to want mercy for ourselves and people like us, but justice against those who hurt us or disagree with us. Why is it challenging to show mercy to those who hurt or wrong us? To those who disagree with our most strongly held convictions?
5. How should our experiences of past grace shape how we treat others?
6. Who do you find it most difficult to extend mercy to? What is a specific way that you can do so this week?

Sharing and Prayer: Pray for the specific situation in question 6. Ask that you will be able to extend mercy to others as God has to you.