

blessed

october 8/9

talk IT over

MERCY

looking AT

Talk about the following verse as a group and how it applies to your individual lives: *"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."* MATTHEW 5:7 [NIV]

looking IN

- ▶ What does it mean to show mercy to others?
- ▶ Share a time when you witnessed someone else showing mercy to a person that you didn't believe deserved it. How did that act of mercy impact you?
- ▶ Share a time when you have experienced another showing you mercy. How did you feel?
- ▶ How often do you believe God wants us to show mercy? Discuss any barriers you have had being merciful.

looking AT

Look up and read the following verse out loud. Then, talk about how this verse applies to your lives: MATTHEW 9:10-13 [NLT]

Unlike the religious people who often avoid those on the margins, Jesus goes right at them and appears to enjoy their presence. Are we like that? Or, have we completely isolated ourselves from people we commonly refer to as the *unchurched*? Jesus made the lost, the sick and the sinners His best friends. He invited them, He healed them, He saved them, and three years later He turned it all over to them.

looking IN

Share your responses with the group:

- ▶ Reflect on your past and current relationships with individuals who you considered outcasts. If you had the chance to do it again, share how you might implement mercy as a better alternative to how you interacted with that person. How might the results have been different?
- ▶ Think of a current person in your life who fits the mold of being an outcast; design a simple strategy of mercy you could implement and share that plan with the group.

looking AROUND

Brainstorm the following as a group:

- ▶ Consider some people groups that might be deemed "unpopular" or "marginalized" by society's terms that is within your group's reach.
- ▶ Discuss how your group could build a bridge of mercy and love to that people group.
- ▶ How could those bridge-building acts of mercy lead others to know Jesus?

looking UP

Pair up with two others in your group. Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength to be merciful, for personal needs, and for those who are far from God that you want to talk to about what it means to follow Jesus.

looking OUT

Practice being merciful. Identify some steps to take to show mercy to others.

QUESTIONS?

**CONTACT OUR PASTOR OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH
JEANNE MOORE AT [JMOORE@VCCINDY.ORG](mailto:jmoore@vccindy.org).**