**“For Mercy’s Sake” Discussion Guide**

Mercy is compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm. Mercy is giving or receiving grace when punishment is deserved. Jesus had mercy on us when he saved us. We deserved death and separation from God for all eternity. Instead, He gave us salvation through His sacrifice for our sins. If we believe in Jesus as Lord and receive the salvation He offers, we experience His mercy.

Once we receive mercy, we have a responsibility to be merciful toward others. Jesus promises that if we do, we will receive continued mercy from Him. When someone hurts us, we must choose to forgive them instead of becoming angry and bitter. When someone has a need, we choose to meet that need. We must put others’ needs above our own. In doing these things, we are showing the love of Jesus through our actions. We are treating others the same way Jesus treats us.

The promise in this beatitude is that we will receive mercy from God as a reward. As God pours out mercy on us, we respond by showing mercy to others, which causes us to receive even more mercy from God.

**Key Verse: Matthew 5:7**

**Discussion Questions:**

* What is Mercy?
* What is the difference between grace and mercy?
* Why do you think it is so difficult for people to show mercy?
* In what incidents of your life have you shown mercy? Been granted mercy?
* In what ways does God show mercy to us?

**Prayer Focus:**

Thank God for showing mercy by offering forgiveness for sins instead of the punishment we deserve. Ask God to give you the ability to show mercy to others, even those who hurt you. Thank Him in advance for the many ways He will continue to show you mercy as you are merciful toward others.

**Next Steps**

1. Read through the story of The Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37.
2. Make a list of people in your life to whom you can show mercy. List specific ways you can show those people mercy and put it into action.