

B(less)ed – Week 5 Small Group Questions

Ice Breaker

1. What's a time you got out of trouble and received mercy instead of punishment?
2. Have you ever been pulled over or caught doing something wrong? What happened?

Discuss

Main Scriptures: Matthew 5:7

1. Read Matthew 5:7. What do you think Jesus means by saying the merciful will be shown mercy?

Leader's Note: It can be helpful to differentiate between grace and mercy. Grace is receiving what I do not deserve. For example, I do not deserve God's love and forgiveness, but He gives it to me anyways. Mercy is not receiving what I do deserve. For example, someone who hurts me in some way may deserve to receive my anger, but I am choosing to show mercy and not be angry.

2. Pastor Jeff said, "Mercy always feel amazing when you receive it, but inconvenient when you're asked to give it." Why do you think that is true?
3. Forgiveness is one area it is hard to show mercy. Pastor Jeff said, "Forgiveness is forfeiting my right for revenge." How is that different from how the world defines forgiveness?
4. Pastor Jeff mentioned that unforgiveness keeps us chained to the person who hurt you. Have you experienced that?
5. Read Proverbs 24:17-18. What does this reveal about God's heart toward our enemies? Is it hard to not be excited when an enemy fails?
6. Read Luke 10:33-37 (Good Samaritan). What does this story teach us about who deserves mercy.
7. Who in your life is hardest to show mercy to right now – and what would it look like to take one step toward them this week?

Practice

Spend time this week praying specifically for someone you struggle with.