

Small Group Discussion Guide



Ice Breaker: If God's mercy were described as a color, what color would it be for you?

Instructions: If your group meets bi-weekly do 2 & 3.

1. Read 2 Corinthians 4:1. Pastor Tom explained that when we understand that God's mercy is behind every breath we take, every positive thing we do, and every failure we experience, then we don't have to do 2 things. What are those 2 things? Read 1 Timothy 1:12-13, Galatians 1:13, 15 and Ephesians 2:10. How does God's mercy help us overcome these experiences? Have these 2 things been a part of anyone's experience? How did God work in your life to overcome the experience?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 4:2. What does Pastor Tom mean when he says, "God doesn't use fakes, phonies, people who 'wear a mask'. He wants you and me to be the most Christ-like version of ourselves". What are some of the negative consequences we can experience when we try to be something we are not (see message notes)? What things make it difficult for us to be transparent about who we are in Christ? How can we be more transparent? How might your group support each other in this?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7. How are we all 'crackpots'? Take a moment to discuss strengths you may have noticed in others. Who is the person, what is their strength and what have they done to show you that strength? Is there a weakness in your life that you need God's help in strengthening? Ask your group to pray for a specific weakness or if you don't feel comfortable naming it, ask them to pray about the weakness you are thinking about.
4. Pastor Tom shared a quote with us, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less" (Warren). What does this quote mean? How can we apply this saying to our lives? How can we begin to stop living the rest of our lives for ourselves?

Personal Guide for Week of March 19th

DAY 1 – Read Psalm 30. David pleads for God's mercy to protect him from his enemies. How does God answer his pleas?

DAY 2 – Read Luke 18:9-14. How does the Tax Collector receive God's mercy?

DAY 3 – Read Romans 12:1-8 to learn how we should react to God's mercy.

DAY 4 – Read 2 Corinthians 4. How does God's mercy shape Paul's ministry in Corinth?

DAY 5 – Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17. How does Paul humble himself to receive God's mercy?

NEW *every* DAY

MESSAGE NOTES &
SMALL GROUP GUIDES

Mercy Isn't for Wimps - Part 1
3/19/17



“Mercy Isn’t For Wimps” - Part 1
[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Mercy is one of God’s primary _____, but understanding how mercy works in our lives and in the lives of others is often challenging.

Because every human being has spiritually defective _____, we constantly need mercy, and we’re surrounded by people who also constantly need mercy.

Because of God’s mercy, we don’t have to feel disqualified because of our past, or _____ because we don’t have the right gifts...

Mercy gives our lives significance and makes our lives _____ when it comes to what matters most (note II Corinthians 9:8).

1. Never _____ That Everything is Because of God’s Mercy
(note II Corinthians 4:1)

Mercy = undeserved forgiveness and _____ kindness.

When you understand God’s mercy is behind every _____ you take, every positive thing you do, and every failure you experience, then you don’t have to:

- Prove your _____.
- Be a prisoner to my _____.

Note I Timothy 1:12-13; Galatians 1:13, 15; Ephesians 2:10

Every saint has a p_____, and every sinner has a f_____ (because of the mercy of God). (Wilde)

2. Be the Real _____ (note II Corinthians 4:2)

God doesn’t use fakes, phonies, people who “wear a _____”.

He wants you and me to be the most _____-like version of ourselves.

When we try to be someone we’re not, we will always be:

- Under _____.
- _____ of being found out.
- Manipulating others.

Transparency promotes _____ with others and less stress.

The _____ to insecurity/fear is God’s mercy (note Romans 8:15).

3. It’s Never About _____ (note II Corinthians 4:5)

When we forget this we will either:

- Get _____ when problems dot the landscape of our lives.
- Or we’ll be _____ of ourselves when we experience blessings.
- Or we’ll take everything _____.

We can have the right methodology but the wrong m_____.

Note II Corinthians 4:7

“Clay pots” _____ easily.

We’re all “c_____”.

We’re all a collection of strengths and weaknesses with a default setting that pushes us towards _____.

Humility is not denying our strengths, but being willing to _____ our weaknesses. Note James 4:6

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself _____. (Warren)

Mercy is new every day:

- What’s the _____ holding you back?
- Do you really want to live the rest of your life for yourself?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Mercy Isn’t for Wimps” – Part 1
Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

Mercy is one of God’s primary attributes, but understanding how mercy works in our lives and in the lives of others is often challenging.

Because every human being has spiritually defective DNA, we constantly need mercy, and we’re surrounded by people who also constantly need mercy.

Because of God’s mercy, we don’t have to feel disqualified because of our past, or unqualified because we don’t have the right gifts...

Mercy gives our lives significance and makes our lives usable when it comes to what matters most (note 2 Corinthians 9:8).

1. Never Forget That Everything is Because of God’s Mercy (note 2 Corinthians 4:1)

Mercy = undeserved forgiveness and unearned kindness.

When you understand God’s mercy is behind every breath you take, every positive thing you do, and every failure you experience, then you don’t have to:

- Prove your worth.
- Be a prisoner to my past.

Note 1 Timothy 1:12-13; Galatians 1:13, 15; Ephesians 2:10

Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future (because of the mercy of God). (Wilde)

2. Be the Real Deal (note 2 Corinthians 4:2)

God doesn’t use fakes, phonies, people who “wear a mask”.

He wants you and me to be the most Christ-like version of ourselves.

When we try to be someone we’re not, we will always be:

- Under stress.
- Afraid of being found out.
- Manipulating others.

Transparency promotes intimacy with others and less stress.

The antidote to insecurity/fear is God’s mercy (note Romans 8:15).

3. It’s Never About Me (note 2 Corinthians 4:5)

When we forget this we will either:

- Get bitter when problems dot the landscape of our lives.
- Or we’ll be full of ourselves when we experience blessings.
- Or we’ll take everything personally.

We can have the right methodology but the wrong motivation.

Note 2 Corinthians 4:7

“Clay pots” crack easily.

We’re all “crackpots”.

We’re all a collection of strengths and weaknesses with a default setting that pushes us towards sin.

Humility is not denying our strengths but being willing to admit our weaknesses.

Note James 4:6

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. (Warren)

Mercy is new every day:

- What's the prison holding you back?
- Do you really want to live the rest of your life for yourself?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!