



Mercy - Its Source and Motive | Week 1

1. Catch Up On Life:

Life is better together. Whether we are celebrating wins with one another or catching each other up on the difficult things that are happening. Use this time to listen and share.

- Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?
- What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2. Review the Mission:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

- Reactive - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
- Proactive - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, STC partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?

Plan:

- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

3. Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Primary Passage: Deuteronomy 10:17-21

Related Passage: Philippians 2:4-11

Read and Recap: Have someone read **Deuteronomy 10:17-21** and recap the highlights from this week's sermon. What stood out to you from the scripture or sermon? Why?

- What are the broad categories of people God calls us to love and serve in this passage?

Deuteronomy 10:19 says God's people should serve the sojourner because we were once sojourners too. We had nothing before God gave us everything.

- How does the gospel remind us of our identity as the sojourner? How does this motivate us to care for and love the marginalized?
- What are some excuses you might use to not serve or give sacrificially? How does God's character and actions on your behalf in this passage challenge those reasons?

- In what ways are you already leveraging your voice, strength, power, or resources to serve and lift up the vulnerable around you? What actions can you take to do this even more (or more effectively)?
- Take some time to go over our giv projects and our STC partnerships. Which one of these will your LifeGroup commit to serving over the next year?

Pray that our love for Jesus would increase our desire to live on mission with the marginalized and vulnerable in our city. Pray that the Spirit would produce an attitude of generosity in our hearts during this season.

4. Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

- Where do you need to confess and repent that you have not loved the marginalized and oppressed well?

Pray: James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins in prayer and pray for each other.