



This Is Us

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Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Matthew 5:7 (NIV)

- Grace is *getting* what we *do not* deserve.
- Justice is *getting* what we *do* deserve.

- Mercy is *not getting* what we *do* deserve.

Ephesians 2:3-5 (NIV)

Mercy is given when a person filled with compassion is moved to action to help bring relief to a person's misery.

Today's "Be" Attitude: Mercy is compassion in action.

Luke 10:30–37 (NIV)

Excuses for Not Caring . . .

- Fear of contamination
- Fear of commitment
- Apathy

Steps in responding to Mercy Moments:

⇒ "I see the need"— that's _____.

Luke 10:33 (Message)

⇒ "I am moved by the need"— that's _____.

Mercy is the ability to get right inside the other person's skin until we can see things with his eyes, think things with his mind, and feel things with his feelings. ~ William Barclay

Q—What moves you lately?

⇒ “I move to meet the need”— that’s _____.

Q—What price are you willing to pay to help someone?

This Week’s Spiritual Practice: Think of someone specific to whom you can show mercy - compassion in action. Make a plan of how you will reach out as a tangible reminder of your care.

ANSWER KEY: recognition, motivation, action



Study & Discussion for Your Next Small Group

Theme: *Like a Good Neighbor*

Share Together: Growing up, which of your neighbors was most memorable and why? Did you get along with them?

Reflect Together: From last weekend’s Online Experience: What impacted you most from the

message and what are steps you took with the Spiritual Practice this week?

Read Together: Luke 10:25-37

- What do you sense was the motivation of the religious lawyer by his initial question to Jesus in verse 25?
- Why did Jesus ask the lawyer a question back after the lawyer asked him a question? Why is it more effective when someone does the same to us?
- How did this religious lawyer justify himself as Luke points out in verse 29? How can we do the same in finding a loophole out of loving?
- Why does Jesus choose this famous story and the types of characters it contains in response to the question, “Who is my neighbor?”
- What was so significant about Jesus using a “Samaritan” in this story? What do you think the reaction was of the Jewish religious experts?
- Why didn’t the first two men help the dying man? What could have been their excuses?
- What did the Samaritan do that showed not just pity but true mercy, which Jesus commended?
- Who do you know that is in the “ditches” of life right now that needs rescuing?
- What do you find difficult about helping during the Covid crisis? What risks should we take?
- If you’re feeling like you’re the one in the ditch, how can we pray for you as a group?

Pray Together: Share updates of how God has been answering prayer and pray for needs in your group.