

Living in God's Mercy

Leader's Guide

A companion to the 6-Part Study Guide by HopeHouse.vi

How to Use This Leader's Guide

This guide is designed to help study leaders facilitate group sessions for the *Living in God's Mercy* 6-part series. Each session includes key reminders, discussion prompts, and optional activities to promote deeper understanding and personal connection to the mercy of God. Use these tips to guide discussion, foster openness, and encourage participants to live out what they've learned.

Part 1: The Nature of Mercy — More Than Pity

Session Goals

- Understand how God’s mercy transforms the guilty, the suffering, and the undeserving.
- Foster openness and trust through personal sharing.
- Encourage real-world expressions of mercy in everyday life.

Leader Tips

- • Emphasize that mercy is more than pity—it’s compassion that moves toward action.
- • Encourage participants to reflect on how mercy has shown up in their own stories.
- • Create space for vulnerability; many people struggle with receiving mercy.
- • Suggested activity: Have participants write a short prayer or journal entry thanking God for a time He withheld what they felt they deserved.

Part 2: Mercy for the Guilty — David's Prayer

Session Goals

- Understand how God's mercy transforms the guilty, the suffering, and the undeserving.
- Foster openness and trust through personal sharing.
- Encourage real-world expressions of mercy in everyday life.

Leader Tips

- Highlight the honesty of David's confession and the depth of his trust in God's mercy.
- Invite participants to reflect on their own need for mercy without fear of judgment.
- Remind them that God restores those who come to Him in truth.
- Suggested activity: Read Psalm 51 aloud slowly; pause for reflection after each section.

Part 3: Mercy for the Suffering — The Good Samaritan

Session Goals

- Understand how God's mercy transforms the guilty, the suffering, and the undeserving.
- Foster openness and trust through personal sharing.
- Encourage real-world expressions of mercy in everyday life.

Leader Tips

- • Focus on the difference between feeling compassion and acting on it.
- • Challenge the group to identify modern-day 'neighbors' who may need mercy.
- • Discuss obstacles that keep us from engaging others in their pain.
- • Suggested activity: Brainstorm practical ways to be a Good Samaritan in the upcoming week.

Part 4: Mercy for the Desperate — Blind Bartimaeus

Session Goals

- Understand how God's mercy transforms the guilty, the suffering, and the undeserving.
- Foster openness and trust through personal sharing.
- Encourage real-world expressions of mercy in everyday life.

Leader Tips

- Highlight how persistence in prayer matters—Bartimaeus kept calling out.
- Let participants share places where they are crying out for mercy.
- Assure them that Jesus still stops for the broken and overlooked.
- Suggested activity: Have the group write individual prayers of mercy and share if comfortable.

Part 5: Mercy for the Undeserving — Jonah and Nineveh

Session Goals

- Understand how God's mercy transforms the guilty, the suffering, and the undeserving.
- Foster openness and trust through personal sharing.
- Encourage real-world expressions of mercy in everyday life.

Leader Tips

- • Address the tension we feel when mercy is given to someone we don't think deserves it.
- • Discuss God's justice vs. our desire for fairness.
- • Invite conversation around bitterness, resentment, and the struggle to forgive.
- • Suggested activity: Encourage writing a letter of mercy—whether it's ever sent or not.

Part 6: Mercy at the Cross — “Father, Forgive Them”

Session Goals

- Understand how God’s mercy transforms the guilty, the suffering, and the undeserving.
- Foster openness and trust through personal sharing.
- Encourage real-world expressions of mercy in everyday life.

Leader Tips

- • Emphasize the power of mercy even in the face of pain and injustice.
- • Encourage participants to consider how they can reflect Jesus’ mercy in daily life.
- • Reflect together on how Jesus’ final words embody the mercy we are called to show.
- • Suggested activity: Close the series with communion, or a group prayer focused on extending mercy forward.