

1. Connect

Question of the Day. Highs and Lows. Share how last week's message influenced your week.

2. LifeJournal

Last Sunday we read John 4:15-26. Share your SOAP application or prayer with your group. *Next week, pay special attention to John 6:16-21 as we will be discussing this passage together.

3. Engage: Sermon Review + Discussion

This week, our message was from Matthew 5:7. Read the passage and dive into the questions below.

Matthew 5:7 (NIV)

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

1. How would you describe "the merciful"? What are some things a merciful person does? What would the opposite look like?
2. Jesus says the merciful will be shown mercy. Why do you think our treatment of others will affect God's treatment of us?
3. How might you explain the relationship between justice and mercy? How can we uphold justice while still showing mercy?
4. Mercy is defined as showing compassion or forgiveness when it is undeserved. How might showing mercy be challenging in our culture today?
5. When we take it upon ourselves to punish people, we withhold mercy. How might showing mercy to someone transform our hearts?
6. Jesus shows us undeserved mercy every day. How can your life be a response to His undeserved mercy? Who do you need to show compassion and forgiveness towards?
7. Mercy embraces both forgiveness for the guilty and compassion for the suffering and needy. Why might extending mercy be challenging to do?

4. Apply: Next Faithful Step

In light of Christ's deep loving kindness for us, mercy leaks out of the life of Christians in the form of forgiveness and compassionate action.

1. What are some practical ways we can express mercy where we live and work? Talk about what that might mean for you in your group.
2. Sometimes, we struggle with mercy because we are holding on to something. It might be anger, an unresolved issue, a distance we are creating or even something we don't quite want to let go. How can we lean on Christ more to help us to be what we couldn't be in our own strength? Pray together on these things.

5. Prayer

Take some time to hear prayer requests from each member of your LifeGroup. Pray for one another, for your families, communities, our church, and the world.

*If anyone needs additional pastoral support or prayers regarding this sermon or any other aspect of our Red Letter series, please don't hesitate to reach out to our pastoral staff. We would love to chat more deeply and pray with you.

