

**Mercy**

HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#) and this [overview of Luke 10-24](#) from the Bible Project for a broader view of the passage where we find the teaching of the Good Samaritan. Then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (10-15 minutes) - For Leaders

Have an ice breaker ready, eat a snack together, or go around the circle asking your group members to share any news since your last meeting. Be intentional in helping your group members get to know one another during this time and make it fun.

Use the following ice breaker question, choose from one of the other ice breakers on Emmanuel's [leader tools](#), or create your own.

This past week we felt the warm spring air for the first time in months. What is your favorite and least favorite part of spring?

CHECK-IN (15-20 minutes) - For Leaders

Ask your group what they learned after completing their action step. Last week, we encouraged group members to set action steps around areas they felt could impact their lives and relationships.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (45-60 minutes)

Do you believe that God delights in showing mercy and that his mercy triumphs over judgment? It's the truth! But this can be such a hard thing to swallow as we examine our past thoughts and behaviors.

1. When you hear the word "mercy," what is the first thing that comes to mind? Maybe it's a song, a popular expression, or maybe even a well-known band?

2. Read the story of the Good Samaritan in [Luke 10:25-37 \(NLT\)](#). In this story, mercy provided what someone needed. Go around the group and share a memory of when someone has provided for your needs OR when you have provided for someone else's needs.



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3. Do you think God's patience has run out with you? Pastor Danny gave us several old patterns that we can easily slip back into when we feel we have failed. Of the five listed below, which one(s) do you see yourself fall into most easily?

1. Limiting Mindset of "How can I keep messing up like this? I am a failure!"
2. Suspecting God's Patience has run out.
3. The thought that "He may still love me, but all I do is disappoint."
4. I can tell others that God loves them, but secretly I believe he harbors resentment against me.
5. God will never use me because of my broken past.

These thought patterns can lead to negative actions. Describe how an old thought pattern you believed led you to

- Walk away?
- Settle?
- Express legalism?

4. Thankfully, none of these are "The Way of Mercy" God desires for us. When you think of the many wonderful attributes God has, how would you finish this sentence: God is_____.

5. Read [Exodus 34:6-7 \(NLT\)](#). God gives compassion and mercy with "no termination date" to each of us. Since he is abounding in love and faithfulness, his mercy far out ways his punishments. However, that is not a license to sin. Everyone sins. No one has to continue in sin. No one. You can live a life full of love following Christ.

- On an index card, write this sentence: God, during this series, please show me your compassion and mercy in the area of _____ (insert sin struggle here).
- Take a picture of the card with your phone.
- Keep the card and photo where you can see them.
- Pray over this for the four-week series.
- At the end of the series, share your story of God's compassion and mercy God has shown you with Pastor Danny in his email danderson@eclife.org and put "mercy" in the subject.



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ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Daily time with God.** Determine the type of routine you'd like to have to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
 - o [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - o [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do daily.
 - o If you recently placed your faith in Christ and texted SAVED to 65248, read the devotional provided in your starter kit.

PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action step on one side and a prayer request on the other. When finished, have everyone pass their cards to the left. Everyone in the group now has someone to connect with throughout the coming week for three reasons:

- 1) To build the relationship.
- 2) To encourage them to accomplish their action step.
- 3) To pray for in a specific way.

Ask them to place the index card on their nightstand or another place that would allow them to see it and use it every day.

GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel's Outreach Coordinator, at bschafer@eclife.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 10 | [Night of Worship](#) and [Singles Happy Hour](#)

March 15 | [Impact Team Night](#)

March 18 | [1824](#)

April 4 | Easter & [Baptism Service](#)

April 11 | [VERB](#)

You can find more information on all of these events at eclife.org.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL OBJECT LESSON & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In preparation for group, watch Emmanuel's weekend service message and then answer the following discussion questions.

Read the story of the Good Samaritan in [Luke 10:25-37 \(NLT\)](#). – In this story, mercy provided what someone needs. Go around your group and share when someone has provided for your needs OR when you have provided for someone else's needs.

ACTIVITY:**Materials needed:**

Small plant

To play:

-Show a small plant to the group. Explain that the plant must be moved to a larger pot as it grows. Otherwise, it cannot survive.

-Ask for a volunteer who is willing to get their hands dirty to replant it. If no one volunteers, do it yourself. Place new soil in the pot, and remove the plant from its packaging. Please place it in the larger pot and use your hands to put more soil over its roots. You may also water the plant a bit once it has been planted.

Kindness is all about “getting our hands dirty.” The best way to show people we love them is by being willing to help them, even if it means that we have to be “inconvenienced.” The priest and the Levite both preached about love, but they didn't take the opportunity to show it. Only the Samaritan was willing to use his time and money to help the man. It probably wasn't pleasant to dress the man's wounds, and maybe he arrived later to his destination because he helped him, but the Samaritan did those things anyway. In return, he had the satisfaction of knowing he helped someone, and God surely would have rewards for him in heaven as well.

Gardening often involves a lot of hard work and sticking our hands into some dirt! However, it's worth it once we see the beautiful flowers or tasty fruits and vegetables growing in our gardens.

2. When you think of the many wonderful attributes God has, how would you finish this sentence: God is_____.

Why do you define him that way?



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3. Read [Exodus 34:6-7 \(NLT\)](#). God gives compassion and mercy with "no termination date" to each of us. Since he is abounding in love and faithfulness, his mercy far out ways his punishments. However, that is not a license or permission to sin. Everyone sins. No one has to continue in sin, though. No one. You can live a life full of love following Christ.

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