



# BLESSED ARE \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### THE MERCIFUL

SPEAKER: Bo Stern Brady

DATE: March 15, 2026

TEXT(S): Matthew 5:7, with Ps. 103:13, 136:1-26; Ex. 34:6; Lev 4-5, 19:9-10, and 25:10, 23; Is. 49:15; Jer. 22:3; Acts 2:44-45, 4:34-35; and Phil. 3:10

**HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:** *This resource is designed to help you, and your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message.*

*Our goal is to help you better understand and apply B4's teaching.*

### MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

In Matthew 5:7, Jesus declares, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Biblical mercy is far deeper than simple kindness. It's rooted in God's covenant character, expressed through the Hebrew words for steadfast love and deep compassion. Mercy reflects God's loyal love toward an undeserving people. Throughout the Old Testament, mercy is woven into Israel's life through sacrifice, Jubilee, Sabbath, and justice for the vulnerable. With Jesus, mercy becomes more deeply embedded in the culture of God's people. Mercy is both a gift received and a practice that reflects that gift. As we practice mercy toward others, they see us mirror the merciful likeness of Christ.

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5 minutes.*

1. What images or experiences does the word "mercy" conjure for you?
2. What is the difference between being nice, kind, or merciful?
3. Have you ever been given a "second chance" that you didn't expect? What did that feel like?
4. Do you tend to be harder on yourself or on others when mistakes happen?
5. When is it hardest for you to show mercy?

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) above. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. In Matthew 5:7, what might Jesus mean by the promise that the merciful "will be shown mercy"?
2. What do Exodus 34:6 and Psalm 136 reveal about the character of God?
3. How does the sacrificial system in Leviticus 4-5 demonstrate mercy within justice?
4. Why does the Old Testament repeatedly emphasize care for widows, orphans, and foreigners?
5. What do Isaiah 49:15 and Psalm 103:13 teach about the depth and tenderness of God's mercy?

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. How does your culture typically treat people who fail publicly or make serious mistakes?
2. Where do you see systems in modern society that lack mercy toward the vulnerable?
3. Why do you think mercy can be perceived as weakness in modern cultures?
4. How does social media shape the way people respond to the failures of others?
5. How might practicing mercy challenge our ideas about justice or fairness?

**LOOK IN:** *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. When someone fails or disappoints you, what is your instinctive response?
2. Are you as patient with others as God has been with you, and why or why not?
3. After this message, how might you approach someone you struggle to forgive or show compassion toward?
4. Do you tend to protect your rights or prioritize relationships, and why?
5. How comfortable are you with responding to suffering rather than turning away?

**LIVE IT OUT:** *These practical action steps help you apply this message to day-to-day life. Choose one prompt and talk it over for 5 minutes:*

1. The “Received Mercy” Prayer: Each morning, begin by reflecting on God’s mercy toward you. Pray something similar to this: “Father, thank you that your mercy is new today. Remind me that my identity is not the same as my worst moment. Help me receive the mercy you freely give.” Then briefly confess anything weighing on your heart and thank God for His forgiveness. Starting the day grounded in mercy prepares you to extend it.
2. The “Mercy Intercession” Practice: Each day, bring one difficult person before God in prayer. Pray for them in this manner: “Lord, help me see this person the way you see them. They are someone you love deeply. Give me your heart of mercy toward them.” Ask God to bless them and help you respond with patience, restraint, and compassion if you interact with them that day.

You can find B4’s [Series Resources here](#).

