

## **Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment**

### Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, July 25th 2021**



**Sermon Title:** Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment

**Scripture Reading:** Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:7; 7:1-3; 23:23; Luke 7:36-50; James 2:13

**Sermon Focus:** America has a mercy and grace problem, as is evident in the lack of it. What is happening? It's time to return to a biblical understanding of God's holiness, our sinfulness, and our need for the gospel of Christ. In this sermon, *Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment*, Pastor David shares the first of a two-part message on how we can receive God's mercy and grace for ourselves, so that we can then extend it to others.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began with a story about taking a wrong turn and ending up in downtown Baltimore late at night. While his oldest son (8) didn't understand the dangers of a drug addict at the car window, he did reflect the heart of God toward those in need. How have you seen children model God's mercy and grace in ways that challenged you? Read Luke 18:16-17 and discuss.
2. Pastor David defined mercy and grace this way:  
**Mercy** is about forgiveness and pardon—  
not getting the punishment we deserve.  
**Grace** is about blessing and empowerment—  
getting good things we don't deserve.

Can you share of a time when you were shown mercy by someone in your life? Also, share of a time when you showed mercy to someone else?

3. In what ways have you witnessed our society's lack of mercy? Share how you see this at work today. Also, how have you seen it at work in the church?
4. With your knowledge of the biblical story, what would be one or more examples of God's mercy (or someone showing mercy) that has impacted you the most?
5. Read Micah 6:8 together. Micah tells us to act justly and *love* mercy. When we think of "justice" in our country, we're not usually thinking about the *restorative* justice that Jesus modeled for us. Rather, we think of getting even, payback, etc. How is God's justice different than *retributive* justice (i.e., eye for eye)? How should we be modeling God's justice in our lives, church, and community?
6. Read Luke 7:36-50 together and then take a moment to sit in prayerful silence. How is the Spirit speaking to you through this story of Jesus showing mercy to a sinful woman in the house of Simon the Pharisee?
7. What tangible ways can you show mercy to people in your family? What about in our church? What about at your job? What about with yourself?