

Home Group Discussion Questions: Week beginning 19th Feb: Love Mercy **Luke 10:25-37 The story of the Good Samaritan**

This term we are looking at our verse of the year, Micah 6:8. Over the course of the term we'll be thinking about how we Act Justly, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly with God. Today's study invites us to consider what we learn from Jesus about what loving our neighbour really means. Depending on how your group runs, you may have time to do all the questions, that's fine – please do make sure you use number 1 and 10 though.

1. **Check in with one another** – What has God been doing in and with you this week? Do you have any stories to share? Any challenges or encouragements from last time's study that you've been thinking about?
2. Thinking of incidents in the news, local situations you are familiar with or something that has come up in your life recently – where have there been opportunities to show mercy? Have they been described as this and how have people responded?
3. **Read Luke 10:25-37:** When you read this perhaps familiar passage, is there anything that particularly stands out to you? Or any aspect of the incident that raises a question?
4. Is God's standard for loving your neighbour fair? What sort of challenges do you feel it raises?
5. Have there been times this week where you have felt God calling you to mercy in a relationship or situation? What went through your mind and what did you do?
6. Have you ever been in a situation like the one Jesus describes in the story – either as a person who might be able to give help or might need it? Talk about the situations and your feelings and actions – how do they compare to the players in Jesus' story?
7. Who do you feel you are most like in the episode – the lawyer, the priest or Levite or the Samaritan and why? Is there something for prayer or thanksgiving?
8. The lawyer sought to justify himself, how much do you feel grateful to God for his grace to you? How do you cultivate this sense of appreciation and how important is it?
9. What do you find are the biggest obstacles for you in showing mercy? Are there common obstacles – what might you do about them?
10. Jesus concludes with a command – discuss:
 - a. how this might apply to us as individuals in our normal week
 - b. what it might mean for us as a church.

Prayers: Is there one thing that each person might pray for the person next to them in the coming week, especially related to tonight's study? Any other important events or needs for prayer? Pray for an awareness of all God gives you in Christ and the heart to 'not to cross the road' this week.