



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 14th April 2021



Micah 6:8 "Love mercy" Matthew 18:21-35

Warm Up

Why is saying sorry so difficult for some people? Why is saying "I forgive you" difficult for others?

Background and context

In the previous study we learned of God's justice, (MISHPAT). God's justice is restorative, it is our role to "act justly" and seek out those in need and restore them. It is a mirror of what God has done for us through Christ. God's mercy (HESED), His loving kindness is closely linked to justice. God's merciful nature enables us to receive forgiveness, to start over... every day! In the parable of the Unmerciful Servant we see an example of a person who has not fully appreciated the gift of mercy they have received and as such they fail to pass it on, with terrible consequences for them.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Matthew 18:21-35. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.

1. In the parable, how is the Kingdom of Heaven described? How does this serve as a warning to us?
2. What do we learn about the debt of the first man in the parable? What lesson is there here for us?
3. Why did the king cancel the debt? What can we learn about God's nature from this?
4. **V 28.** What is important about the debt of the second man?
5. Why do you think the first debtor refused to cancel the debt of the second?
6. What were the staggering consequences of the first debtor's actions?
7. How does this parable link to HESED, God's loving kindness?
8. What scriptures do you know that talk about God's mercy or forgiveness? Share them.
9. What simple message about God and our response to Him can you take from this parable?

Practical Application and discipleship



10. God's mercy is a gift to us. We do not deserve it. Why can it be so difficult to pass it on to others?
11. If possible share a story of when you have been shown mercy. How did it impact you?
12. How can you become more merciful?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.