



# HOMIES

## *The Power of Mercy*

#nphomies

# Week 3

## 3 of 6

May 7, 2017

**Bottom Line:** Mercy gives hope, patience, understanding, and forgiveness.

**Icebreaker:** What was one of your favorite movies/stories, and who was the good guy/the villain in the story?

**Key Verse:** *God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.* Matthew 5:7

Learning to willingly be an agent of mercy is one of the most significant skills in all relationships. Mercy comes from the heart of God, and is vital for living the way He has designed. Every single person has been given immeasurable mercy by God, and God has in turn commanded that mercy be the standard for our relationships with others.

It is easy for us to sigh and feel put upon when we consider the requirement to show mercy to others, but the fact is, all of us are going to need much more mercy ourselves. No one lives perfectly and never offends another. The most careful person occasionally gets it wrong and in the process makes mistakes from which recovery is hard. Mercy is needed! On a grander scale, God is a perfect God, and when we stand before Him, everyone of us will need mercy. James reminded us that the only way to expect mercy from God at the judgment is to have established a track record of giving it to others (James 2:13).

Mercy is a choice of my will, a determined decision. It is not a feeling—it is a decision that will always cost me something. It helps without judging, but does not overlook sin. Mercy loves people enough to correct what is wrong and help the other get it right.

The strength and willingness to show merciful love comes from a deep realization of my own situation. *“But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Jesus Christ from the dead”* (Eph. 2:4-5). It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved! I can be one of the ones who gets it, and gives it!

## THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on the message, what impacted you most?

What is the best example in your own life, besides your salvation, of receiving mercy? Can you think of a time when you showed mercy? In each instance, how did you feel? What were the results?

Dwight listed numerous mercy-killers: Unclear boundaries, inconsistent discipline, unbalanced correction, unreasonable demands, unspoken expectations, undeserved or unresolved anger. Which of these are more likely to be present in your home/relationships? How do they spell death to mercy? What can you do about it?

Whom do you know who would perceive you as a merciful person? Is there anyone who would say you are unmerciful? Is it justified? Why or why not? How can you rectify your part of the problem?

## LOOK IT OVER <<<

Do you have a more difficult time showing mercy to children or adults? Peers, supervisors, or those under your authority? Why do you think you struggle more in that particular arena?

Are you more comfortable giving mercy or receiving mercy? Life requires that we be skilled at both. Receiving mercy is very difficult for some of us. Why do you think that is so?

“Mercy is compassion moved to action.” Discuss and apply.

“If a person deserves mercy, he doesn’t need it.” Explain that. Mercy is for the undeserving, and we all are that sometimes.

## NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together as a group:

- 1) "Good, Good Father" was named song of the year in 2016. Discuss why you think this spoke to people so much. Sing it together.
- 2) Select a particular group or kind of person in our society who typically does not receive mercy. Pledge and pray together to look for opportunities this week to be lovingly merciful to them.

## EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** Mercy gives hope, patience, understanding, and forgiveness.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Day 1: Micah 6:8  
Day 2: Matthew 7:1-5  
Day 3: Ephesians 2:8-9  
Day 4: James 2:13  
Day 5: Lamentations 3:22-23

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)