

## Small Group Discussion Questions

Following the Weekend of May 18-19, 2024

No need to answer every question. Feel free to jump around.

### Full of Mercy

(James 3:17)

Alan Kraft, Lead Pastor

### Group Interaction & Application

Read aloud together James 3:17.

What words, phrases, concepts, or images from these verses stand out to you as you just read them, or create a curiosity for you in some way?

What aspects of Pastor Alan's message gave you fresh insight into this passage, or helped you the most in understanding these verses and what we experience here?

Take a minute as a group to read Luke 6:32-36.

After reading this, how would you describe what living mercifully towards others should look like?

How easy or difficult is it for you to be merciful to others who are not merciful to you?

Why do you suppose it is so difficult for many of us to be merciful towards others in the world of politics?

James urges his readers to avoid becoming judges and reminds them that mercy triumphs over judgement. (James 2:4, 8, and 12).

How susceptible are you to making judgments over individuals or groups of people (especially without knowing the full story)?

If you are vulnerable to making judgments, what could be fueling this tendency?

Pastor Alan shared the result of a recent study where 30% of respondents agreed with the statement that members of the opposing political party (whether republican or democrat) “lack the traits to be considered fully human.”

What stirs in your heart as you ponder the result of this survey question?

If you long to grow in mercy, Pastor Alan suggests two steps you could take.

Step 1: Repent of judgments you have made towards others.

Step 2: Cultivate a compassionate curiosity toward people who disagree with you.

If you are feeling a call to engage with either of these two steps, share what you are feeling as well as what it could look like for you to move forward.

How hard or easy is it for you or do you suppose it will be for you to take steps like these?

If this is challenging to even consider, what could it look like to invite Jesus into this process?

If you have had positive results from inviting Jesus into situations where you have been challenged to exhibit mercy in the past, share what this has looked like.

If you have made progress in your life to live more mercifully, what has helped you in this journey?

Or maybe share a time when someone has been very merciful towards you when you had a different perspective. What did this look like and how did it make you feel?

Conclude by praying for one another in taking practical next steps in applying this weekend’s message and group discussion, after which pray for group needs and concerns.

**Messages are available in audio or video on our App or at [cccgreeley.org](http://cccgreeley.org).**