



## #BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

### GETTING STARTED

Would you consider yourself a merciful person? Can you think of instances where you have been merciful to others? Are you known as a merciful person? Mercy is a trait of all Christians because we rejoice that God has forgiven each of us of an insurmountable debt. As followers of Jesus, the mercy we are to extend to others flows out of the abundant mercy God has extended to us.

### READ THE TEXT: Matthew 5:7

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

### UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. What is the subtle difference in definition of *grace* and *mercy*?
2. Since it is not possible to show mercy to such a degree that you could earn God's mercy, what is the verse (*and others like it: 6:12; 18:35*) saying?

### APPLY THE TEXT

1. Hard questions to answer honestly: *Am I merciful or arrogant to those in distress? Am I gentle or hard-nosed toward those who are burdened down? Am I helpful or callous toward the backslidden? Am I compassionate or impatient with the fallen?*

### SHARE & PRAY

1. Like Stephen, the Amish families, Rachael Denhollander, and Corrie Ten Boom (and all Christians through the ages), we are to extend mercy and pray for God's mercy upon those who wrong us.



- Share about who you're struggling to extend mercy to
  - Praise God for the infinite mercy that He has extended to us
  - Pray for merciful hearts for one another
  - Pray for those in your lives you struggle to extend mercy to. Even pray for their good
  - Pray that God would be merciful upon them as well (as Jesus did on the cross, as Stephen did as he was stoned, and as Corrie Ten Boom did as she shook her victimizer's hand)
2. How can you/your group "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your *good works* and *give glory* to your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16)?

