



Few verses in scripture speak with more clarity than Micah 6:8 about what God values. In this series we will explore what it means to focus on what God focuses on most. Justice. Mercy. Humility. Repeat!

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Micah 6:8 focuses on the values God has said we should focus on. What is one thing that has resonated with you the most so far in this series?

2 MOST FOCUS ON... merit more than mercy.

Mercy is rarely appreciated or initiated in the kingdoms of men. The world operates by the principle “*you should get what you deserve.*” In almost every area of your life you are rewarded for performance. In what areas of your life are you most judged on a merit system, and how do you think that might impact you spiritually?

3 Read Luke 10:36-37. What is challenging or significant about Jesus presenting “*mercy as a verb*”? Share some examples of how you’ve experienced mercy as a choice, as an action, or as a joy. **Micah 7:18** reminds us that God delights to show mercy. How should that encourage and inspire you to do the same?

4 MERCY IS GOOD... because it reflects God.

Rick said that “*We base our actions on who we believe God to be. So, if we do not delight in opportunities to give others what they do not deserve we do not have a ‘mercy’ problem; we have a ‘knowledge of God’ problem.*” How have you encountered this to be true? **Read Ephesians 2:4-5, Titus 3:4-5, 1 Peter 1:3, and Lamentations 3:22-23.** What stands out to you the most about the picture these verses paint about who God is?

5 MERCY IS GOOD... because it reveals scripture.

When Jesus met someone who knew the scriptures but didn’t seem to reflect the heart of God he always reminded them of the primacy of mercy (see **Matthew 9:12-13; 12:7**). How should being in the Word make you more merciful and how will loving mercy make you more Biblical?

6 MERCY IS GOOD... because it rebukes pride.

The kingdom of God is for the poor in spirit, but most of us tend to be “middle-class” in spirit. And the irony is that religion can fuel our drift in that direction. How does the story Jesus told in **Luke 18:9-13** illustrate this to be true? How has this been a challenge for you? Follow up: in **Matthew 18:21-35** Jesus tells a story about an unmerciful servant. How is it possible for someone who has received so much mercy to then fail to be merciful to others?

7 Let’s be clear: people who need it love it! Rick closed by reminding us that “*We need an intentional strategy for maintaining our focus on a merciful God who came for us. For me communion serves as a weekly opportunity to regain clarity.*” Share some ways communion can help you to “regain clarity” each week. Closing application: What are some opportunities we have to show mercy to others on a regular basis?

