

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT - 11/10/2024

COMMUNION

- At some point during your gathering, take communion together.
- Read a Scripture about God's mercy or use Ephesians 2:1-8
- spend a moment in silence to experience the presence of Christ

REVIEW

- We all need wisdom from God. We receive the blessing that comes from wisdom only when we put it into practice
- God's primary or preferred character is loving, gracious, merciful and forgiving. But not at the expense of justice. He is the same person to everyone, with no favoritism.
- Moses responded to God's graciousness by interceding for sinful Israel to be forgiven. Jonah responded to God's grace by refusing to go to the people he wanted judged.
- James says yielding mercy and judgment with favoritism creates division and injustice in the church
- For examples, when we favor certain spiritual gifts over others, we often then favor the people with those gifts over those with less favored gifts - hurting the community
- God prefers mercy over judgment, Therefore, we avoid judgment when we are merciful
- Jesus perfectly displays God's mercy and justice and He has no favorites.

DISCUSSION

1. How has your time been since our last gathering? How did you see God at work in you or around you?
2. Think of a previous season in your life that was marked with suffering (emotional, physical, and/or spiritual). Were you able to "consider it pure joy" at that time? What about now as you look back on that experience?
3. How might wisdom help you navigate difficulties and suffering better?

Read: James 2:1-13

4. What stood out to you from this week's teaching? Was there anything challenging, encouraging, or confusing to you?
5. Are you able to see any ways you might operate with favoritism rather than love in any of your approaches to relationships?