

“Heart For The House”

“A Generous Spirit”

warm-up

Group Ice Breaker:

Share a time when you may have offended someone, but they chose not to hold anything against you. How did you feel? How was your relationship affected?

word & application

Jeremiah 7:5-7

“(5) If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, (6) if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, (7) then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever.”

Hosea 6:6

“For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.”

Matthew 9:10-13

“(10) While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. (11) When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” (12) On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. (13) But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Observations:

- MERCY = “cheched” in Hebrew: goodness, kindness, faithfulness
- MERCY = “eleos” in Greek: compassion
- Interesting how God places mercy in opposition to sacrifice.

Discussion & Application:

- What do you think of when you think of “mercy”? People? Experiences? Feelings?*
- Why does God (through Hosea) and Jesus emphasize mercy over sacrifice?*
- How do we embrace God’s mercy in the context of the definitions above?*
- How could embracing God’s goodness, kindness, faithfulness and compassion affect our self-views?*
- How could understanding God’s merciful view of us affect our interactions with others in our lives?*
- How can embracing a merciful heart help us experience freedom in our relationships?*

prayer

Share any recent “God moments” in your life. Pray over group requests. Ask that we truly “lean into” God’s view of kindness, goodness, faithfulness and compassion toward ourselves. Pray that we experience the freedom of not feeling the need to offer sacrificial works to God, and are empowered to extend freedom in the lives of others in this same way.