

## Small Group Discussion Guide



**Ice Breaker:** Do you know anyone who was personally affected by last week's tornado? What stood out to you about the storm?

**Instructions:** If your group meets bi-weekly do 2 & 4.

1. Pastor Tom shares a quote from Millard Erickson about God's mercy that says, "God's mercy is His tenderhearted, loving compassion for His people. It is His tenderness of heart toward the needy. If grace contemplates humans as sinful, guilty, and condemned, mercy sees them as miserable and needy." What are the 3 reasons Pastor Tom gives for why we need mercy? What were the examples he gave? Which of the 3 reasons resonates most with you? Explain.
2. How do we welcome mercy into our lives? What does Pastor Tom mean when he tells us that we should take "time to grieve - don't not rush to get 'past it' ", rather we should "go through it"? How can "the BIG 3" help us to welcome mercy into our lives? How has it helped you? Read 1 Peter 1:3 and 5:7. How do we ask for God's mercy?
3. Read Luke 22:31-32. How does Jesus show us Mercy in our failure? What does Pastor Tom mean when he tells us "God's mercy means he doesn't waste our failures"? Read John 21:15-17. What would your response have been if you were Peter in this situation? What is Jesus trying to tell Peter when He asks him if he loves Him? How has God used your failure to build His church?
4. Judas and Peter were two of Jesus' closest friends who failed Him. Review your message notes to review the examples Pastor Tom gave that describe the differences between the two. What were those differences? How did those differences affect their lives after their failures? How will your failures affect your life after they happen? What can you do to ensure that your failures are not the end of your spiritual journey? How might your group support you in this?

## Personal Guide for Week of March 12<sup>th</sup>

**DAY 1 – Read Genesis 50:15-21** to see an example of God's mercy in the Old Testament.

**DAY 2 – Read Jonah Chapter 3.** God's mercy is generous. He will never give up on us. How is this shown to the Ninevites?

**DAY 3 – Read Matthew 9:9-13.** Pastor Tom explained why we need mercy. Do you see his examples in the Pharisees in these verses?

**DAY 4 – Read Luke 10:25-37.** What can you learn about mercy from Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan?

**DAY 5 – Read John 21:1-14.** How does Jesus show mercy to the disciples after they all failed Him?

NEW *every* DAY

MESSAGE NOTES &  
SMALL GROUP GUIDES

*Mercy Redeems Failures*  
3/12/17



**“Mercy Redeems Failures”**  
[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

**MESSAGE NOTES**

We have a bit of a schizophrenic \_\_\_\_\_ towards mercy:

- We d\_\_\_\_\_ want it for ourselves...
- ...but we are not as anxious for others to receive it, either from us or even from God.

Old and New Testament words for mercy = “ransom, \_\_\_\_\_ for, to love, to have compassion, goodness, lovingkindness, to pity.”

God’s mercy means that when we deserve punishment, He doesn’t punish us, but \_\_\_\_\_ us instead.

*God’s mercy is His tenderhearted, \_\_\_\_\_ compassion for His people. It is His tenderness of heart toward the needy. If grace contemplates humans as sinful, guilty, and condemned, mercy sees them as miserable and needy.”* (Erickson)

**1. Why We Need Mercy**

- We overrate our \_\_\_\_\_ (note John 18:10; Matthew 26:31-35) - self-awareness is an amazing personal \_\_\_\_\_ too few of us possess (note I Corinthians 10:12). An unguarded \_\_\_\_\_ can be a double weakness.
- We fear what others \_\_\_\_\_ of us (note Matthew 26:58, 69-70). When we try to follow Jesus from “a \_\_\_\_\_”, it is easy to let the opinions of others matter more to us than God’s truth (Proverbs 29:25).
- We \_\_\_\_\_ without thinking (note Matthew 26:71-74; James 3:5-6).

**2. How We \_\_\_\_\_ Mercy Into Our Lives**

- Take time to \_\_\_\_\_ (note Matthew 26:75) - don’t \_\_\_\_\_ to get “past it” because you need to “go through it”.

- Don’t \_\_\_\_\_ yourself (note Mark 16:10; John 20:19-20, 26)
- \_\_\_\_\_ for God’s mercy (note I Peter 1:3; 5:7).

**3. How Does Jesus Show Us Mercy in Our Failures? (note Luke 22:31-32)**

- He isn’t \_\_\_\_\_ (note Matthew 26:31; Psalm 103:8-14).
- He \_\_\_\_\_ for us (note Hebrews 7:25).
- He doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ on us (note Luke 22:32; Mark 16:6-7; Proverbs 24:16).
- When we’re at a low point, Jesus’ mercy is \_\_\_\_\_ (note John 21:1-14; Lamentations 3:22-23) - God will never give up on you (note I Timothy 2:13).
- He \_\_\_\_\_ His Church through imperfect people who need mercy (note Luke 22:32; John 21:15-17). God’s mercy means He doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ our failures.

Mercy is new every day:

- Two of Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ friends failed Him big time.
- Judas became a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Peter became a \_\_\_\_\_/leader.
- Judas had a b\_\_\_\_\_.
- Peters had a b\_\_\_\_\_.
- Peter received God’s mercy.
- Judas rejected God’s mercy.
- What will you become because of your \_\_\_\_\_?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!





**“Mercy Redeems Failures”**  
**Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor**

## MESSAGE NOTES

We have a bit of a schizophrenic attitude towards mercy:  
We desperately want it for ourselves...  
...but we are not as anxious for others to receive it, either from us or even from God.

Old and New Testament words for mercy = “ransom, atone for, to love, to have compassion, goodness, lovingkindness, to pity.”

God’s mercy means that when we deserve punishment, He doesn’t punish us and blesses us instead.

God’s mercy is His tenderhearted, loving compassion for His people. It is His tenderness of heart toward the needy. If grace contemplates humans as sinful, guilty, and condemned, mercy sees them as miserable and needy.” (Erickson)

### 1. Why We Need Mercy

We overrate our strengths (note John 18:10; Matthew 26:31-35) – self-awareness is an amazing personal quality too few of us possess (note 1 Corinthians 10:12). An unguarded strength can be a double weakness.

We fear what others think of us (note Matthew 26:58, 69-70). When we try to follow Jesus from “a distance”, it is easy to let the opinions of others matter more to us than God’s truth (Proverbs 29:25).

We talk without thinking (note Matthew 26:71-74; James 3:5-6).

### 2. How We Welcome Mercy Into Our Lives

Take time to grieve (note Matthew 26:75) – don’t rush to get “past it” because you need to “go through it”.

Don’t isolate yourself (note Mark 16:10; John 20:19-20, 26) – BIG 3 LOGO HERE WITH #2. GET IN A GROUP

Ask for God’s mercy (note 1 Peter 1:3; 5:7).

### 3. How Does Jesus Show Us Mercy in Our Failures? (note Luke 22:31-32)

He isn’t surprised (note Matthew 26:31; Psalm 103:8-14).

He prays for us (note Hebrews 7:25).

He doesn’t give up on us (note Luke 22:32; Mark 16:6-7; Proverbs 24:16).

When we’re at a low point, Jesus’ mercy is generous (note John 21:1-14; Lamentations 3:22-23) – God will never give up on you (note 1 Timothy 2:13).

He builds His Church through imperfect people who need mercy (note Luke 22:32; John 21:15-17). God’s mercy means He doesn’t waste our failures.

Mercy is new every day:

- Two of Jesus’ closest friends failed Him big time.
- Judas became a traitor.
- Peter became a teacher/leader.
- Judas had a breakdown.
- Peter had a breakthrough.
- Peter received God’s mercy.
- Judas rejected God’s mercy.
- What will you become because of your failures?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!