

## Small Group Discussion Guide



**Ice Breaker:** Name one of your favorite things to do in the spring. Why is it special for you?

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

1. Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, 5. God gives us everything we need to persevere through hardship and pain. How has God done this in your life? How has this truth helped you share your faith with others? We are sometimes tempted to justify our weaknesses and failures by rationalizing, thinking we know better than God and the truth found in His Word. Have you encountered this? What was the situation and what was misunderstood? When we explain our story of God's mercy, do we sometimes take credit for what God has done? Explain.
2. Pastor Nate explained that God uses our pain to help others. What does he mean by this? What pains have you been able to share recently? How has that helped others? What steps of faith have you seen others take because of someone's story of God's mercy? Who can you tell your story to next? How will you know it's the right time to do so?
3. Pastor Nate tells us there are 3 types of suffering. What are they? What are the differences between the 3? Has anyone in your group known someone or experienced any of these three types of suffering firsthand? What was the situation? How did God show you mercy in that situation? How did that help you grow in faith?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. What does real eternal hope look like? Why does focusing on eternal hope show courageous determination and not escapism? In the verses, why does Paul state that our troubles are light and momentary? Do you believe they are? Why or why not? He continues to explain that what is seen is temporary and what is unseen is eternal. How does this knowledge allow us to overcome our troubles?

## Personal Guide for Week of March 26<sup>th</sup>

**DAY 1 – Read Job 1.** What does Job conclude about his suffering in verse 21?

**DAY 2 – Read 1 Peter 4:12-19.** How can we be glad or rejoice when we suffer?

**DAY 3 – Read Philippians 1:27-29.** How is suffering a privilege?

**DAY 4 – Read Titus 1:1-4.** According to this passage, when did God prepare our hope of eternal life?

**DAY 5 – Read Romans 5:1-11.** How does Paul talk about hope and suffering? How does God's mercy make this possible?

NEW *every* DAY

MESSAGE NOTES &  
SMALL GROUP GUIDES

*Mercy Isn't for Wimps - Part 2*  
3/26/17



**“Mercy Isn’t For Wimps” - Part 2**  
**[Nate Sickler, Small Groups Pastor]**

**MESSAGE NOTES**

Mercy = \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness and unearned kindness.

**1. Never Forget That \_\_\_\_\_ is Because of God’s Mercy (note II Corinthians 4:1)**

**2. Be the \_\_\_\_\_ Deal (note II Corinthians 4:2)**

**3. It’s Never About \_\_\_\_\_ (note II Corinthians 4:5)**

Mercy isn’t for wimps because it \_\_\_\_\_ us to face our weaknesses and failures, but to not use them as an excuse to not engage with God and others.

**4. God Uses My \_\_\_\_\_ to Help Others (note II Corinthians 11:23-28)**

*“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.” (II Corinthians 4:8-10 NIV)*

Types of \_\_\_\_\_

- We bring on ourselves
- \_\_\_\_\_ suffering
- \_\_\_\_\_ suffering (note Hebrews 9:12)

*“All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.” (II Corinthians 4:15 NIV)*

Mercy turns our \_\_\_\_\_ into mission

**5. Focus on a \_\_\_\_\_ Eternal \_\_\_\_\_**

*“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” (II Corinthians 4:16-17 NIV)*

Not \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ determination  
(note Romans 5:3-9; 8:18-28)

*“because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.” (II Corinthians 4:14 NIV)*

*“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (II Corinthians 4:18 NIV)*

Mercy is new every day:

- What’s the \_\_\_\_\_ holding you back?
- Do you really want to live the rest of your life \_\_\_\_\_?
- \_\_\_\_\_ makes a \_\_\_\_\_ way.

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 Isn’t for Wimps” – Part 2**  
**Nate Sickler, Small Groups Pastor**

**MESSAGE NOTES**

Mercy=undeserved forgiveness and unearned kindness.

**1) Never Forget That Everything is Because of God’s Mercy (2 Corinthians 4:1)**

**2) Be the Real Deal (note 2 Corinthians 4:2)**

**3) It’s Never About Me (note 2 Corinthians 4:5)**

Mercy isn’t for wimps because it challenges us to face our weaknesses and failures, but to not use them as an excuse to not engage with God and others.

**4) God uses my pain to help others**

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. (2 Corinthians 4:8-10 NIV)

Types of Suffering

- We bring on ourselves
- Innocent suffering
- Redemptive suffering (note Hebrews 9:12)

All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 4:15 NIV)

Mercy turns our mess into mission

**5) Focus on a Real Eternal Hope**

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. (2 Corinthians 4:16-17 NIV)

Not escapism but courageous determination (note Romans 5:3-9; 8:18-28)

because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. (2 Corinthians 4:14 NIV)

<sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:18 NIV)

Mercy is new every day:

- What’s the prison holding you back?
- Do you really want to live the rest of your life for yourself?
- Mercy makes a better way

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!