



SERIES: In View Of God's Mercies

Week 1: A Mercy Undeserved	
<p>Connect</p>  <p>5 – 10 min</p>	<p><i>Just for fun:</i> What brand are you most loyal to? Why do you think you stay loyal to it?</p> <p><i>(Or for younger kids: Which one is your favourite: Vegemite or Peanut Butter? What is your favourite way to eat it?)</i></p>
<p>Gratitude</p>  <p>10 – 15 min</p>	<p>Each person think of something God has created. (Or put out a bunch of appropriate pictures or objects and ask people to choose one each.) What is something about God's character or nature that you see reflected in the created thing you picked? Give thanks for that characteristic of God.</p> <p><i>Song suggestions:</i> Indescribable (Chris Tomlin), Beautiful (Phil Wickham), God You Reign (Lincoln Brewster) <i>Scripture suggestions:</i> Romans 1:20, Psalm 19, Psalm 96</p>
<p>Discover</p>  <p>25 min</p>	<p>This week is the first in a series of short talks entitled, "In View of God's Mercies" – a journey through Romans 1-11.</p> <p>Paul writes in Romans chapter 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." In other words, "based on all I have said to you in my letter until this point - offer yourself to God." When we see the grace, the love, the mercy of God – his total commitment toward us, his people - then the only appropriate response is to offer ourselves unreservedly to him.</p> <p>Watch the 9 minute video talk by Ian Freestone at https://youtu.be/KfPkiqPc6M4</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you think the church talks less about "sin", "repentance" and "God's judgement" than it did 50 years ago? How might that be a good thing?! How might that be not such a good thing? How do you find yourself reacting when sin, repentance and judgement is spoken about? 2. Paul defines "sin" as "worshipping and serving created things rather than the Creator." How have you, or your family, or your community been guilty of this? (Rom 1:25). 3. What Christian books/authors or music or teaching podcasts would you say give proper attention to sin and judgement? (Perhaps read or listen to something along those lines in the coming week). 4. Read and pray through Rom 1:29-31. Allow God to convict of sin. Repent where needed and ask for forgiveness.
<p>Act</p>  <p>10 min</p>	<p>What action is God asking of you in response to what you have just discovered in God's word?</p> <p>How did you go this week applying what God has showed you recently? How have you seen God at work in you, through you and around you? Do you have a story to share? How can house church encourage and support you as you seek to respond to God's prompts and teaching?</p>