

Look

We have all made mistakes in our lives--perhaps even wrecks of some parts of our lives. Sometimes those mistakes only hurt us but many times our mistakes can hurt others.

1. How do you define mercy? What role does mercy play in our society?
2. Describe a time when someone showed you mercy and the impact it had on your life.
3. Describe a time when you showed mercy to someone. How did it impact them? You?

Book

Matthew 18: 15-20

Jesus teaches about how to treat a believer who sins--how to show mercy.

1. Where do you see mercy in this passage? What is Jesus saying about sin and mercy?
2. Why do you think Jesus felt it important to provide guidelines for handling the sins of fellow believers? Discuss the importance of the order of confrontation--one on one, small group, church.
3. Do we as the body of Christ today deal with our conflicts as Jesus describes in this passage? Discuss.

Took

Mercy means not receiving the punishment you deserve--is a quality of character that easily fades if not exercised. Just like you have to exercise your muscles to keep them, so it is that you need to recognize your own need of mercy every day if you are to continue to show mercy to others. The two really go together--receiving mercy from God and extending mercy to others.

1. When have you seen/felt God's mercy in your life?
2. How has the mercy God has shown you affected your life Do you feel you show mercy more?
3. Do you feel you are more merciful to fellow believers than non-believers? Explain.
4. In what ways can you strengthen your mercy muscles?