



**Matthew 5:7-8 Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.**

Icebreaker

Describe a “game” you played with a bigger stronger brother, sister, uncle or friend that required you to say, “Mercy” or “uncle” when you gave up. How did you feel about that game? Did you ever play the game where you were the bigger, stronger person? How was it different?

Conversation Starters

1. How would you define mercy vs. grace?
2. What does it mean to be ‘blessed’ in the way these verses describe? In what ways have you experienced something of the blessings described here?
3. Jesus makes clear that we forgive because we have been forgiven and here he shows that the one who shows mercy will receive mercy. What do you think he means? How have you flexed your ‘mercy muscle’? With whom do you think you need to show mercy? What would that look like? In our world? In your daily life?
4. Jesus confers blessing, not on the smart, cool, or pious, but those who are ‘pure in heart’, what does that mean to you?
5. For many hypocrisy is ugly and a turn off. How does Jesus’ call to ‘purity of heart’ challenge you? The church? What would it look like for you (or your group) to live ‘pure in heart’?