

# LIFEGROUPS

## LOVE MERCY

### Introduction

1. How would you define 'mercy' and 'kindness'?
2. Can you remember a time when someone showed you kindness/ mercy?

### God and mercy

*Read Exodus 34:6-7, Psalm 136:5-9, Hosea 2:19*

3. What do we learn about God's mercy in these verses?
4. Read Hosea 6:6. What does God mean when he says he desires 'mercy not sacrifice'?

### Jesus and mercy

*Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6 on two separate occasions. Read Matthew 12:1-8 and Matthew 9:9-13.*

5. Why does Jesus quote Hosea 6:6 to the Pharisees? Why do you think the Pharisees focused on the sacrifice as opposed to mercy? Have you ever withheld mercy because you were focused on something else?
6. Luke 10:30-37, the story of the Samaritan paints a perfect picture of mercy in action. Have you ever been in a similar situation and how did you respond?

### Why have mercy?

7. So why should we show mercy?

Luke 6:35-36 ... because your Father is merciful

Proverbs 14:21 ...he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he

James 3:17 ...fruit of the Spirit

8. Who can you show mercy to this week?

#### LEADER'S NOTES

These notes are here as guidelines or commentary notes to help the leader.

The Hebrew word *Hesed* (Loving-kindness) refers to the idea of faithful love in action and often in the Old Testament refers to God's loving kindness expressed in his relationship with Israel. God's *Hesed* denotes his unconditional tenderness, kindness and mercy as well as his loyalty to His covenant and His love for His people, along with a faithfulness to keep His promises.