**THE 6:8 ASSIGNMENT: Love Mercy**

Pastor Derek Sanford

December 13, 2015

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. As Derek preached this week from the Old Testament Book of Micah, what stood out to you as most significant? As he discussed “loving mercy”,did anything challenge or confuse you?
2. Revisit the foundational scripture verse for this series by reading *Micah 6:8*. Next, let’s read aloud the supporting scripture to help us to prepare for this week’s discussion questions:

 *Ezra 9:13 Hebrews 4:16 Psalm 103: 8, 10-14 Micah 7:18*

Upon reading and reflecting on these verses, what might you add to Derek’s concise definition of mercy: “Loving people beyond what they deserve.”

3. After digesting this week’s sermon on loving mercy, why do you think that Derek elected to begin this series with the sermon on humility, imploring us to “…walk humbly with your God”

4. Some months ago, Derek preached that we often judge others by their actions even as we judge ourselves by our intentions. On Sunday, Derek taught that when we have been wronged, we seek justice, but when we have wronged someone we seek mercy. How are these insights similar? What is at the root of these reactions? What will it take to become more like Christ?

5. What are the downsides of confusing compassion and sympathy with mercy?

6. Derek said that “we often withhold mercy because we think certain people do not deserve it.” In what ways are we taught in our homes, schools, workplace (sometimes even churches) that certain people are not worthy of our mercy? Which of the stories about Jesus confirm that every person is of equal value before God? Consider our standing before God- do we deserve mercy?

7. Application:

With your Life Group members, create a list of the individuals and groups that are most likely to challenge our ability to love mercy. Remember, freely we have received and freely we must give (*Matthew 10:8b*).

Pray for the family of the Angel Tree child(ren) your group is helping this Christmas. OR take time to pray for the names of those prisoners your group took from a tree on Sunday. Remember that God can and does do great work in prison.

**PRAYER THOUGHT:**

Lord, keep us mindful of the power we hold in our hands to model Christ’s love and mercy as we practice merciful behaviors with the difficult people that we meet. Keep us mindful that as Christians, followers of Jesus, we have received great mercy and we must give great mercy.