Outline #4 Mercy and Justice in the Psalms and Proverbs

1. The Psalms—songs of hope for the oppressed
   a) Psalm 9:9—Is the Psalmist David referring to himself here or thinking of others?
   b) Psalm 9:13–20
   c) Psalm 50:15—the invitation of the LORD
   d) Share a time when you felt the need for deliverance from those who were oppressing you.
   e) What encouragement would you offer to someone who is oppressed and still waiting for deliverance?

2. Crying out to God for forgiveness
   a) Psalm 51:1–4, 7–12 What is the context of this earnest prayer of the Psalmist David?
   b) Share a time when this prayer of David became your prayer.
   c) What promises in the Scriptures give us assurance of mercy and forgiveness when we cry out to God?
   d) What encouragement would you give to someone who said, “It’s too late for me! I’ve gone too far”?

3. Recounting the mercy and faithfulness of God
   a) Psalm 101:1
   b) Psalm 92:1–2
   c) Psalm 117
   d) Why is it important the remember and recount the mercy and faithfulness of God?

4. Taking time to praise the Lord
   a) The Psalms are filled with admonitions to praise the LORD (e.g. Psalm 9:1–2)
   b) Share some other appeals from the Psalmists to praise the LORD (see Psalms 146–150)
   c) What are some reasons the Psalmist gives for praising the LORD? Psalm 146:7–9
   d) What are some reasons you have for praising the LORD today?
   e) Why is it so easy to forget to praise the LORD for His mercy and unfailing love?

5. Appeals for mercy and justice from the Proverbs
   a) Proverbs 14:31
   b) Why does God care about justice? Psalm 89:14
   c) What teaching of Jesus reinforces the importance of showing mercy to those in need and seeking justice for the oppressed?
   d) Where do we see mercy revealed in the ministry of Jesus?
   e) What opportunities has God given you to show mercy to the needy?
   f) When is it appropriate for Christians to become involved in seeking justice for the oppressed?