

**1. Kingdom Priorities**

- a) What did Jesus have in mind when He commanded His disciples to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness”? Matthew 6:25–33
- b) Why is showing mercy to others such an important characteristic of a follower of Jesus? Luke 6:36
- c) What important lesson can we learn from the illustration of Jesus at the conclusion of His great Sermon on the Mount? Matthew 7:24–27
- d) What options are available to us when kingdom priorities conflict with human laws? Acts 5:29
- e) What wonderful promise is found in James 1:5–8 for those who are committed to live as citizens of the kingdom of God in this present age?
- f) Share a time when God gave you wisdom and courage to honor Him in a potentially compromising situation

**2. Generosity as a way of showing mercy**

- a) Leviticus 25:35–37
- b) 1 Timothy 6:17–19
- c) 1 John 3:16–18
- d) What are some ways to be generous besides giving money?
- e) Think of a story in the ministry of Jesus which illustrates a generous spirit (not necessarily dependent on the amount given)

- f) Share a time when someone showed mercy to you by demonstrating a generous spirit.
- g) When did God impress you to be generous as a way of showing mercy? How did you respond?

**3. Peacemaking as a way of showing mercy**

- a) Matthew 5:9 What type of peacemaking is Jesus referring to here?
- b) Isaiah 52:7
- c) How does your ministry to others as a peacemaker demonstrate your love for mercy?
- d) Share a time when God gave you the opportunity to serve as a peacemaker

**4. Speaking up for and helping those in need**

- a) Psalm 146:9
- b) Isaiah 58:6–7
- c) James 1:27
- d) When do you see Jesus caring for widows and orphans, speaking up for and helping those in need?
- e) Who has inspired you as one who speaks up for and helps those in need?
- f) What are some ways you can demonstrate the love and mercy of God in your community?
- g) How can our capacity to love mercy expand?

