

DISCIPLESHIP: BEING MERCIFUL AS THE FATHER

AUGUST 2016: Being Signs of Mercy in the Community

Focus: Live in mercy – the mercy the Father extends to us all. So be open to be surprised by God.

Opening Song: Prayer for peace

Lord, we pray for golden peace
 Peace all over the land.
 May all men dwell in liberty,
 Walking hand in hand.
 Banish fear and ignorance
 Hunger, thirst and pain;
 Banish hate and poverty,
 Let no men live in vain (2x)

Keep all men for ever one,
 One in love and peace.
 Wipe away all war and strife,
 Give freedom to each race.

Opening Prayer

(Invite a member of the BEC to say the Opening Prayer of a prepared prayer)

LOOK AT LIFE

2004 Dec 26 was a special day for John as it was his birthday. He spent the day at a nearby beach with his three children. Suddenly his only son showed his father a high wave at a distance. In a few seconds, the wave hit the shore. John was pushed up on the tree and his three children were swept away by the wave. He had lost them. He had lost everything. His children were among the thousands who perished in the tragedy.

After sometime, John and his wife managed to overcome their grief.

One day, they went to a nearby village which was also hit by the giant wave. They found sixteen orphaned children who also had lost their parents in the tragedy. Overcome with compassion, John and his wife made a firm resolution to help these unfortunate children to the best of their ability. They returned home with the sixteen children, and started an orphanage for them. Others in the village, seeing their act of mercy were encouraged to volunteer their services at the orphanage.

- **(Buzz) Share the signs of God's mercy in the story.**

LISTEN TO GOD

Word of God: Colossians 3:12-14

Encountering Jesus in the Word:

- We read the text slowly two or three times
- We pick out words or short phrases from the text that pop up for us. Say it aloud prayerfully three times with a pause in between.
- We share in small groups, the Word or phrase that touched us or pop up for us.
- After the sharing, we pause in silence and then, decide together a Word or a short phrase from the Biblical text, that is God's message for us .('Word of life' for the small group)
- We share in the large group our "Word of Life".

LIVE IN MERCY

- Share your experience of an act of mercy
- Decide on one new act of compassion you wish to undertake.

Concluding Prayer

Invite a member of the family to say the Concluding Prayer or pray the Prayer of the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Concluding Song: Let There Be Peace On Earth

Let there be peace on earth.
 And let it begin with me.
 Let there be peace on earth
 The peace that was meant to be.
 With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
 Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me.
 Let this be the moment now.
 With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow,
 To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
 Let there be peace on earth
 And let it begin with me.

A Slice of Life:

From the heart of the Trinity, from the depths of the mystery of God, the great river of mercy wells up and overflows unceasingly. It is a spring that will never run dry, no matter how many people draw from it. Every time someone is in need, he or she can approach it, because the mercy of God never ends. The profundity of the mystery surrounding it is as inexhaustible as the richness which springs up from it. (MV 25)