



ENTER God's presence

Psalm 67:1-7

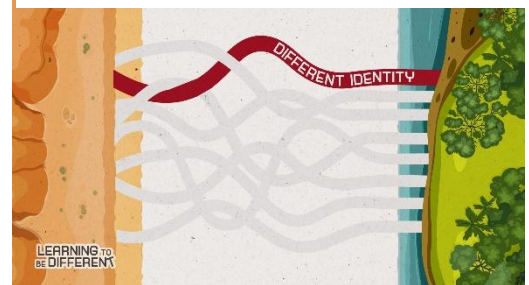
- ¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us
- ² so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.
- ³ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.
- ⁵ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.
- ⁷ May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for bringing us together tonight.
Open our eyes to see you clearly, open our hearts to
receive your mercy, and open our mouths to share it with
others. Speak to us through your Word and let this time
shape how we live differently this week. In Jesus' name,
Amen.



SHARE life together

1. What are some of the highs and lows of your week?
2. What's the most creative or over-the-top thing you've ever
done to get out of a tricky situation or convince someone
of something?
3. Can you think of a time you made a quick decision based
on how something *looked*, only to find out later there was
more going on than you realized?



VERSE for the week

**"Now we are at your mercy do to
us whatever you think is right"**
Joshua 9:25

(Joshua 9: 1-27)



REMEMBER this week

**"The Gibeonites received
mercy making them part of
Israel, God's family. What
could happen when we share
God's mercy with others?"**



LISTEN attentively

How often do we make decisions without asking the right questions first? We size things up, trust our gut, and move on only to realize later we missed something important. Israel did exactly that with the Gibeonites they saw what looked convincing and never stopped to ask God (Joshua 9:14). So before we dive in, let's take a moment to get ready to really listen to God, and to each other. To come with an open heart, ready to hear what God might have for you.

Read Joshua 9:1-27 in your Bible or [Here](#)

4. What's one detail in this reading that stands out to you, something you maybe hadn't noticed before?
5. Israel made their decision without asking God first (v.14). Is there a moment in the where you think things could have gone differently in this reading if someone had simply paused to listen?
6. What usually gets in the way of you truly listening, whether to God or to the people around you?



GROW deeper

Mercy is easy to receive, but often very hard to give. The Gibeonites walked away with their lives because Israel kept a promise, even after finding out they'd been deceived. That's the kind of mercy that costs something and it's exactly the kind God has shown us. Let's dig deeper into what it really means to extend mercy, even when it's inconvenient, even when we've been fooled, and even when it changes the outcome for someone else.

7. Israel kept their promise to the Gibeonites even after discovering the deception even though it went against what they'd normally do to the nations around them (v.19-21). Why do you think keeping their word mattered so much, even in a situation like this?
8. Mercy toward the Gibeonites meant Israel's plans had to change the Gibeonites became part of their community instead of being destroyed (v.26-27). Have you ever experienced God changing your plans in order to extend mercy to you, or through you to someone else?
9. The Gibeonites went from being outsiders and enemies to being woven into God's people. Is there a person or group who you can think of that might need to experience that same kind of unexpected mercy?



LIVE purposefully

Mercy isn't just something we receive from God, it's something we're called to extend to others. The Gibeonites walked away with a different outcome because someone chose mercy over judgment. This week, someone around you might need the same thing. Living purposefully means we don't just hear about

mercy and move on, we look for ways to actually extend it, even when it's inconvenient, even when it costs us something.

1. What's one practical, specific way you can show God's mercy to someone, whether that's a conversation, an action, or simply how you respond to someone who's wronged you?
2. Is there someone you've already decided how you'll respond to when they 'push your buttons' What might it look like to leave room for mercy instead?
3. Extending mercy often means giving up our 'right' to be upset or to get even. How easy or hard is that for you to do?



PRAY intentionally

Praise God that he sees every situation we try to talk our way out of, and that his knowing the full truth is not a threat but an invitation, because he'd rather meet us with mercy than leave us hiding behind excuses or disguises of our own making.

Thank God for the times he's shown us mercy we didn't deserve, pulling us into his family instead of giving us the outcome our choices they deserved. Ask the Spirit to keep shaping us into people who extend that same mercy to others.

Pray for the areas of our lives where we've been quick to judge instead of quick to listen to those around us, we've written off instead of welcomed in. Pray for the moments we've moved on assumptions instead of pausing to ask God first. Ask him to help us see people the way he sees them: not as threats or outsiders, but as those who might need his mercy through us.

Pray for our church community, that we would be marked as different, not by having it all figured out, but by choosing mercy over judgment, even when it costs us something. Ask that we would be a people known for extending grace, not because it's deserved, but because it's who God has called us to be. Let his mercy, not our instincts, be what leads us into how we treat others.



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross in the air as you say...

[Name], May God's mercy shape you deeply. Amen.