

GROW GROUP QUESTIONS

Announcement: Don't miss the special "What's NEXT?" podcast conversation with Pastors David and Steve.

Example Topical Prayer Guide sample using "PRAY":

P – Praise Thank God for His mercy and integrity toward us.

R – Repent by confessing where you've been self-protective rather than merciful.

A – Ask Pray for courage to love those who are hard to love.

Y – Yield by offering generosity, honesty, and grace to point people to Him.

Ice Breaker: When's a time someone went the 'extra mile' for you—did something kind or helpful they didn't *have* to do?

Discussion Questions:

NOTE: Leaders, please take some time to discuss NEXT with your group.

- BEFORE The Message Discussion, Discuss "NEXT"
 - What was your first reaction to Pastor Steve's update about "NEXT"?
 - What are you excited about or wondering about?
- How does this teaching on honesty, mercy, and love connect to the heart of Bethany's *NEXT* initiative—being ambassadors who treat people well inside and outside the church?
 - When you think about the "Giving Pathway" or "One Fund," how might generosity itself become an act of love and witness to others?

Going Deeper in The Sermon – Read Aloud Matthew 5:33-48

- Why do you think Jesus spends so much of Matthew 5 focusing on *how we treat others* rather than personal rituals or religious habits?
 - What does this tell us about what matters most in God's kingdom?
- When have you experienced someone's integrity drawing you closer to Christ (or when has lack of integrity pushed someone away)?
- How could practicing mercy become a witness to those outside the faith?
- Where do you most resist giving mercy—especially when you're "in the right"?
- How does loving enemies reveal the character of our heavenly Father?
- What are some practical ways to show love to someone who's challenging, oppositional, or a struggle for you to like?

Application

- Choose one area this week—*integrity, mercy, or love*—and ask:

"How can I go the second mile in this area for someone outside the faith?"

Share with someone in your group, ask them to check in on you for this commitment.