

## 6:8 ASSIGNMENT: Walk Humbly

December 6, 2020

### Week 1 Reading Plan

#### Day 1-

READ: [Micah 6:8](#); [Genesis 50:19-20](#) (Skim Exodus 38, 40-50 for the story of Joseph if it is not familiar)

REFLECT: Consider writing Micah 6:8 out on a notecard or sticky note and memorizing it this week. What first comes to your mind when you reflect on what the Lord requires of you? Read Genesis 50:19-20. How is Joseph an example of walking humbly with the Lord? What characteristic of God does he focus on in these verses?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Reflect on some negative or difficult experiences in your past. How has the Lord used these things for good? Thank Him for that and then tell someone about it!

#### TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: [The Path to Humility](#) - Where are you in this process?

#### Day 2-

READ: [Micah 6:8](#); [Daniel 2:17-30](#)

REFLECT: How is Daniel an example of walking humbly with the Lord? What is the result? Daniel makes a statement about God being the source of his power. How does this display humility to the king?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Pray for courage to point to the Lord as the source of your accomplishments. Ask Him to soften the hearts of those who hear you praising God to be able to see how great He is.

#### Day 3-

READ: [Micah 6:8](#); [Luke 9:46-48](#)

REFLECT: Why does Jesus use the example of receiving a child to demonstrate and teach humility to His disciples? What did it look like in that time to be the least among others? How is this the same or different today?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Who are the least in our society? Brainstorm some ways that you could serve them sometime in the next few months. Visit [www.hopefor2021.com](http://www.hopefor2021.com) for more ideas.

#### TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: Options Together is a teaching series from CRU found on RightNow Media. Watch [session 1- who are the poor?](#) about the calling of a few people to serve the least of these and how they define poverty. What advice did Charles Gilbert, the man under the bridge, offer about relating to those experiencing homelessness? [Need a *free* RNM account? Sign up [here](#).]

Day 4-

READ: [Micah 6:8](#); [Philippians 3:4-8](#)

REFLECT: How is the apostle Paul an example of walking humbly with God?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: What are some of your accomplishments that you need to set aside to walk humbly with the Lord? Confess these areas and ask the Spirit to help you to continue to surrender these things regularly.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: [Genuine Humility](#), a short teaching with Jennie Allen on RightNow Media. How is your definition of humility being informed or changed through God's Word this week?

Day 5-

READ: [Micah 6:8](#); [Philippians 2:3-11](#)

REFLECT: How does Jesus exemplify humility? Why does He humble himself? How does/should Jesus' willingness to humble himself affect your life?

PRAY: Pray that the Spirit would continue to work in you to make you more humble like Jesus. Ask for guidance about where He is leading you to serve.

PRACTICE: Find more information on serving our community this Christmas season-  
[www.hopefor2021.com](http://www.hopefor2021.com)

TAKE IT FURTHER!

PRACTICE: One way to think of ourselves less and be humble is to think of Christ more. What spiritual discipline (prayer, fasting, Bible reading, etc) would you like to take a next step in to grow? How can you start applying it in the next week?

## 6:8 ASSIGNMENT: Love Mercy

December 13, 2020

### Week 2 Reading Plan

#### Day 1-

READ: [Matthew 18:23-35](#)

REFLECT: Why do you think the servant in the story who was forgiven such a large debt refused to forgive the one who owed him so little? If I am unwilling to forgive or show mercy to others, what does that say about my understanding of God's mercy to me?

PRAY: List some of the many ways God has been merciful to you and spend some time thanking him for his mercy.

MEMORIZE: Continue working to memorize [Micah 6:8](#)!

PRACTICE: Check out [www.hopefor2021.com](http://www.hopefor2021.com) for ways to celebrate and serve.

#### Day 2-

READ: [Jonah 3:10-4:11](#)

REFLECT: Think back to what you learned about Jonah from the November sermon series. How did God show mercy to Jonah? Jonah received mercy from God but he couldn't seem to feel merciful toward the people of Nineveh. How did this lack of mercy affect Jonah's life?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: As you go through your day, ask the Holy Spirit to convict you of ways you are not being merciful and ask him to change your heart.

#### TAKE IT FURTHER!

REFLECT: "My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior." —John Newton (hymn writer of [Amazing Grace](#)). In what ways are you a 'great sinner' in need of a 'great Savior'?

PRACTICE: In this advent season when we reflect on Jesus coming to earth we often think of words like 'hope' or 'joy'. Take some time to ponder the word 'mercy' as it relates to the birth of Jesus and then thank him for coming to be your great savior.

#### Day 3-

READ: [Luke 6:31-36](#) and [Matthew 5:7](#)

REFLECT: Whom do you find it most difficult to bless with mercy? How is being merciful to our enemies showing we are *sons and daughters of the Most High*?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Take some time to pray for those you find it difficult to bless and ask God to show you one practical way to show mercy to someone you think deserves it the least.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[Blessed Are the Merciful](#)" - a short devotional by Bill Bright of CRU.

REFLECT: How does showing mercy to others allow us to receive mercy? How does refusing to offer mercy to others result in our inability to receive mercy ourselves?

PRACTICE: God's mercy is evident in the amazing work of our bodies and each breath He gives as a gift to us—something we don't have to consciously work at that is the basis of our very life. Take a few slow, deep breaths and as you concentrate on your breathing, breathe a prayer of thanks to God for giving you life.

Day 4-

READ: [James 2:12-17](#)

REFLECT: How does showing mercy to those in need reveal our faith or our lack of faith? What does it mean to you that *faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead*?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Bless someone in need this week with at least one intentional act of mercy. You may choose to bring a new coat or one or more packs of diapers to Grace for the [Hope 2021 project](#). Consider giving up a small pleasure you enjoy, like a specialty coffee, and use that money to bless someone else.

Day 5-

READ: [Luke 10:29-37](#)

REFLECT: How did the Samaritan show mercy to the man who was beaten? In verse 34-35 we see this Samaritan was prepared to show mercy for the 'long term'—not only caring for the man himself overnight but also providing financially for his needs until he was healed. Why did Jesus make a Samaritan from a race hated by the Jews the hero in this story?

PRAY: Ask God to show you opportunities to show mercy to someone in your life and ask Him to help you be willing to extend that mercy for as long as it is needed.

PRACTICE: Check out [www.hopefor2021.com](http://www.hopefor2021.com) for ways to celebrate and serve.

## 6:8 ASSIGNMENT: Act Justly

December 20

### Week 3 Reading Plan

#### Day 1

READ: [Genesis 6:5-7, 9-22](#); [Genesis 7:17](#); [Genesis 8:1](#); [Genesis 9:8-11](#)

REFLECT: In these passages we read about the great flood that covered the earth, and how God spared Noah and his family. How does this account of the flood display the juxtaposition of God's wrath and His mercy and love? How do these passages highlight the concept of biblical justice?

PRAY: While unleashing his wrath on a sinful world, God shows mercy to Noah and establishes a covenant with him. We know from the story of scripture that God's covenants are real and true. In your prayer time today, thank God for the covenant he made with Noah, and thank Him that he pours out mercy and love over us.

#### TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[4 Problems with Downplaying God's Wrath](#)" from the Gospel Coalition

REFLECT: What stands out the most to you from this article? How does it shape or change your understanding of God's wrath?

PRACTICE: In your prayer time, thank Jesus for bearing the weight of God's wrath and dying for you on the cross. As you pray, reflect what that really means for you life, and thank God for the parts of you that are radically forgiven because of the cross.

#### Day 2-

READ: [Isaiah 30:18](#)

REFLECT: By the time Isaiah is prophesying about what's to come, the descendants of Abraham and David had turned away from God. The Kingdom of God was deep in sin and rejection of His promises. Yet Isaiah comes to tell of the grace and mercy God has planned for these people. What do you learn about God in this passage? What does it mean to you that God will wait for you? How does this line up with what you know about God's vision for justice?

PRAY: Read [Psalm 40:1-3](#). Use this as your prayer. Thank God for the times He answered when you called, for the times He drew you out of the pit. Also pray that you will have patience to wait when that's what He's asking of you.

### Day 3-

READ: [Psalm 103:6-18](#)

REFLECT: In these scriptures the author gives us an in-depth look at some of the qualities of God. What are some of the character traits used to describe God? What do you learn about His heart for justice and mercy? According to verses 17 and 18, what are we called to do?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Use some quiet time today as a chance to do some personal reflection. Ask yourself: How am I reflecting God's mercy and love? Where do I need to seek Him more? When you hear Him answer, act!

#### TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: A prayer from "Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Common Radicals"

"Lord, you spoke all things into being and call us each to speak your truth in our corner of the world. Save us from ourselves and grant us holy confidence to speak aloud as we have been spoken to. Amen. May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness: protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing: at the wonders he has shown you; may he bring you home rejoicing: once again into our doors."

*(Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Common Radicals, Morning Prayer, page 331)*

PRACTICE: Write down the words "May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you" as a reminder that every step of every day, every thought, every moment, HE goes before you. No matter what the world throws at you, live in the confidence you have in Jesus.

### Day 4-

READ: [1 John 3:16-18](#)

REFLECT: In these passages, we are instructed to live our life like Jesus did. He loved so much that he died for the sake of others. According to this scripture, how are we to love others? How do we see our calling as followers of Jesus to act justly play out in this passage?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: In your prayer time today, ask God to show you what it means to "lay down" your life for those around you. Open your heart to His answer, and make it a prayer that you consistently pray.

#### TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: "[Have Mercy On Me: Four Glimpses Into the Heart of God](#)" from Desiring God

REFLECT: Is there anything that surprised you in reading this article about God's heart? According to this article, why have we been shown mercy? What is significant about that?

PRACTICE: As the article says, "Entrust yourself to the God who has mercy."

Day 5-

READ: [1 Peter 5:10](#)

REFLECT: In this book of the Bible, the author is reminding the followers of Jesus that their suffering has a purpose, and redemption is coming. How does this passage speak to the coming justice God has promised? When you think about living a life that reflects God's heart for both justice and mercy, what can you learn from this passage? How can you live boldly for God and seek justice and mercy for those around you (not just the ones you see every day, but the ones you don't see)?

WORSHIP: Listen [Heal our Land](#), by Kari Jobe. As you are listening, close your eyes and lift your hands up to Jesus and offer up your prayers. Let the words of the song speak truth over you. Let His presence pour over you.

PRACTICE: Visit [www.hopefor2021.com](http://www.hopefor2021.com) for ways to celebrate and to serve.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: For more on Biblical justice, "[A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critical Theory](#)" and "[Justice in the Bible](#)" by Tim Keller.