

God's Promise of Hope  
*Surely Goodness and Mercy Shall Follow Me ...*

God's mercy – let that sit in your mind for a moment. It is the central point of the Bible. God's forgiveness, love, provision, blessings ... they are all a result of His mercy. God's mercy is the sum total of His compassion, forgiveness, kindness, sympathy, understanding, and benevolence. Without God's mercy we would be left with God's wrath.

Take a moment, right now, and thank God that He has chosen to be merciful to you. For the Bible tells us, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." *Hebrews 10:31*

**Study Questions** – *begin with prayer and ask God to open your heart and mind. Be honest with yourself and with God. There are no right or wrong answers.*

1. Are you right with God? What makes you so sure?

Read: Exodus 34:6, 2 Samuel 7:28, 1 Chronicles 17:26, Psalm 31:19, Psalm 33:5

2. Right now, can you say, "surely goodness and mercy are following me"? Why or why not?

Read: Psalm 118:8-9, Proverbs 3:26, Proverbs 14:26, Ephesians 3:12

3. Tell about a time when your confidence in Christ was tested.

4. How was the situation resolved?

5. In hindsight, what did you learn about your relationship with God?

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6. How do you feel about God allowing you to go through this "test of confidence"?

7. What is the foundation of your faith in God and His mercy?

8. Why do you love God?

Read: Lamentations 3:22-23, 1 John 4:10, John 3:16-18, Psalm 103:4, Psalm 116:1, Psalm 119:132

9. How can you pass on this outpouring of God's goodness and mercy? Be specific.

Read: Matthew 5:16, Mark 16:15, Hebrews 3:14, 1 John 4:7-8,

10. When you've spent time with someone, how do they feel when you leave?

Read: Isaiah 52:7

11. Do you most often leave behind (circle those which apply):  
Peace – or – Turmoil  
Forgiveness – or – Bitterness  
Contentment – or – Conflict  
Joy – or – Frustration  
Love – or – Rancor

12. If you have left behind a legacy of encouragement and inspiration to others, how should they receive you when you return?

Questions designated as "Personal" are designed to generate an intimate answer. No one will be called upon to share, but you may volunteer to share your answer. It may be that your response will be a blessing to someone else in your group

13. It has been said that Jesus' life can be summed up very simply (but profoundly) with the statement, "He went about, doing good!" Sum up your life in one, simple statement.

Read: Luke 11:14, 1 John 3:14-16

14. What is your attitude toward others?

Read: Matthew 5: Acts 17:27, Acts 26:17-18

15. What is your "gut reaction" when you see someone who is obviously without Christ?

16. What if they are doing something outright sinful?

17. And what if this outright sin directly affects you? Be honest.

Read: Matthew 4:47, 1 Peter 5:14

18. When you first came to MVCF, how were you greeted? How readily did people introduce themselves and take an interest in you?

19. Who was the last "new" person you introduced yourself to? Tell your group about them.

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20. What more have you done to reach out to them and make them feel at home?

21. What will you do this week to pass on the benefits of God's goodness and mercy to others?

22. Will you commit to making one new acquaintance at church this week and reporting back to your group the next time we meet?

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