

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of March 13, 2016

Matthew 5:6-7

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

### **New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

### **Connection Questions:**

1. What difference does it make to see the Beatitudes as “promises” instead of “commandments”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Have you ever been intensely hungry or thirsty? When? Under what circumstances? How does it affect your actions?

3. What examples do you have of people who are living or have lived righteous lives?
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. When we eat snacks before a meal, it takes away our appetite. The same is true spiritually. What are the things that take away our appetite for God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Nutritionists say that we crave the food that we eat often. Theologians say the same is true in reference to our spiritual lives. What practices or disciplines would help you crave holiness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. In a world of overwhelming choices, how does being in a close relationship with God limit our choices?
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How is God's love related to God's grace? How is God's mercy related to grace?

8. What, if anything, is the difference between mercy and tolerance?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How is mercy a blessing to both the one who gives and the one who receives?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. How does mercy free one from self-centeredness? Does the opposite hold true? Is unmercifulness a self-centered attitude? How?