

# mercy

Read Isaiah 58:1-14

1. Make a list of the kinds of things that God considers acceptable worship in verses 6-10:

2. Can you think of places where Jesus' teaching affirms this same commitment to mercy and justice?

3. What is the link between our listening to the needs of others and God listening to us (verse 9)?

4. In verse 12, Isaiah uses the image of the people of God as builders. How can we – as individuals, a group or a church – help rebuild our community as in this vision?

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*“There is a door in the heart that you can lock against compassion to the poor – but it’s the same door you can lock against God’s compassion to you.”*

*“If you have really experienced grace, when you look at a poor person, you are looking in a mirror.”*

*“It’s often the poor of the world who have found the mercy and grace of God, who are better role models than many of us in more affluent countries.”*

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Where are your church’s strengths in showing mercy to your community? What would your community miss if your church closed down tomorrow?

What would you identify as the top 3 social needs in your area? If you were going to do something about them who would be the best people to speak to? What resources would you need?

Make some realistic 3 month goals to help your church demonstrate God’s mercy to your community e.g. research your local community’s needs and plan how at least one area of need could be met by you / your small group / your church.

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*“The kingdom of God has to be something that people can see lived out, through the way that we love.”*

Prayer / reflection: