

## LOVE MERCY (Part 2) Psalm 103

As you gather together to hear and apply God's Word, share how you were influenced by the previous study since your group last met. Use the following questions for review.

### **D** Debrief & Interpret

- How did you apply the previous Scripture study?
- What did you learn about God as you applied the Word? What did you learn about yourself?

### **H** Hear the Word

*Often referred to as a psalm about the God who heals, Psalm 103 is an illustration of the many ways that God shows his love for us. Read this psalm carefully, underlining or highlighting all the examples of what God has done.*

#### **Read Psalm 103:**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD, my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.  
<sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits—  
<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,  
<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,  
<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the  
eagle's.  
<sup>6</sup>The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all the oppressed.  
<sup>7</sup>He made known his ways to Moses,  
his deeds to the people of Israel:  
<sup>8</sup>The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.  
<sup>9</sup>He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;

<sup>10</sup>he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.  
<sup>11</sup>For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;  
<sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west, so far has he  
removed our transgressions from us.  
<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion on his children, so  
the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;  
<sup>14</sup>for he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust.  
<sup>17</sup>But from everlasting to everlasting  
the LORD's love is with those who fear him,  
and his righteousness with their children's  
children—  
<sup>18</sup>with those who keep his covenant  
and remember to obey his precepts.



**Discuss:**

1. This psalm gives many examples of what God has done for us. Which word pictures connect with you personally? Why?
2. If God treats us this way, what does that mean for how we treat others? What might be challenging about doing this?
3. Compassion is mentioned several times. What do you learn from each different usage that would apply to your relationship with God and with others (vv. 4, 8, 13)?
4. What do you learn about how God heals?
5. How do mercy and justice go hand in hand in this passage?

**R Respond Actively**

As you end your study, choose one or both options below to apply the Scripture to your life this week.

- *Internal:* This psalm suggests that we can care for others with compassion when we notice and accept God's compassion for us. As you reflect on the past few months of your life, how have you experienced God's mercy and compassion for you? Write out a brief psalm of praise to God based on your observations and begin each day this coming week praying your psalm to God.
- *External:* Based on God's compassion and forgiveness towards us, we too are called to demonstrate that same compassion towards others. Who is one person in your nursing school who is a challenge to love or forgive? What is one way you might show love or compassion to them this week?