04/21/24 Facilitator – Matthew 5:7-9 "Blessed are the Merciful, the Pure in Heart & The Peacemakers" David Springer

# 1. <u>Launcher</u>: "The internal root determines the external fruit." Where have you seen this play out in your past?

#### 2. Worship God – Ephesians 2:1-10

Praise God, who is rich in mercy. Worship the Son whose heart is completely pure. Rejoice in the Spirit's work to restore us to peace with God the Father.

### 3. Sermon Reflection: "Blessed are the Merciful, the Pure in Heart & The Peacemakers"

#### The Godly Life is the Good Life

- Why do we have an inherent desire for mercy, purity, and peace?
- If that is inherent in us, why is life filled with so much bitterness, impurity, and animosity?

## Where Have We Gone Wrong?

- Why are the Beatitudes difficult to relate with when we think about the world we live in?
- Tell stories of when you have lacked mercy, or when you haven't been sincere, or when you have not been peaceful?

#### Jesus is More Glorious!

- What does it mean to fix our eyes on Christ? Why is it that fixing our eyes on Him transforms our desires?
- Tell stories of when Jesus was abundantly merciful, or when Jesus was totally sincere, or when Jesus chose peace in the midst of hostility.

## 4. Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray with Us

- 1. Praise God, who is rich in mercy. Worship the Son whose heart is completely pure. Rejoice in the Spirit's work to restore us to peace with God the Father.
- 2. Consider the ways we lack mercy and are quick to bring judgment and condemnation. Confess where our hearts and motives are impure. Question whether our tendency is to peace-fake or peace-break.
- 3. Give thanks to God for His powerful work in our lives. Express gratitude for the Trinity's display of mercy, purity, and peace.
- 4. Who do you know that needs to receive your mercy rather than your wrath? Is there any area of impurity in your life that is keeping you from seeing God? Who do you need to pursue in hopes of reconciliation?
- 5. Ask the Spirit to fill you with mercy, to transform your heart and to give you opportunities to pursue peace.
- 5. <u>Mission:</u> We are on mission as Christians to contemplate the mercy, sincerity, and peace we have been graced with from Jesus so that we can joyfully radiate those same virtues in our world.