

THE MERCY JOURNEY

Bringing hope and healing
to a broken world



“How-To” Kit

Thank you so much for leading your church on the Mercy Journey! Know that you and your community have been prayed for, and we trust that God will use this four-part series to encourage the embrace and expression of his mercy in your congregation.

To deepen your experience with the Mercy Journey, we’ve prepared an extensive offering of resources. This guide is intended as a jumping-off point to help you and your church most effectively use these tools, and we hope you’ll leverage them with creativity in the ways that best fit your congregation.

We are praying that this journey helps your church be awed afresh at the richness of our God’s mercy and compassion.

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The Mercy Journey Report

With brand-new findings from a 2018 survey conducted by the Barna Group, *The Mercy Journey* report explores prevailing perceptions of mercy in the American church and in the broader population. This resource is designed to inspire reflection, then action: heart to home to church to community. Each of the Mercy Journey resources follow this movement of inward embrace to outward expression.

Starting your study with a thorough read of the report will give you a broad and valuable understanding of the state of mercy in the Church today. We believe this is an important foundation from which to lead your church toward a greater expression of mercy. Key data points from the report are contained throughout the supplement resource offerings. We hope you'll revisit the report often!

Sermon Series Outlines

The four-part Mercy Journey sermon series starts on the inside and moves out. These four outlines are designed to serve as a foundation from which you can follow the Holy Spirit's leading to build and share the messages he has for your church. Each outline includes a main idea, key scriptures, 3–4 main points and application questions.

Sermon Series Development Resources

To best serve you as you seek to serve your church, we've compiled key resources you may wish to incorporate into your sermons. These include important data points from *The Mercy Journey* report relevant quotes from well-known pastors, authors and leaders; and key scriptures about mercy.

Sermon Series Slides

Following the sermon series outlines and incorporating relevant materials from the development resources, our team has created slide decks to accompany each part of the Mercy Journey. Each deck contains the key verses and main points for that part of the sermon series.

Adult Small Group Discussion Guide

To equip small groups for a shared experience with the Mercy Journey, we've developed a four-part Mercy Journey discussion guide which mirrors and delves deeper into the themes of the sermon series. Each part contains discussion questions, scripture readings, and a guided prayer section. These guides can be printed for each group member or distributed digitally.

Adult Small Group Leader Guide

Knowing the demands of time and energy often faced by small group leaders, we've created an accessible leader guide that will help them prayerfully prepare to lead their group through the Mercy Journey. We can't lead people anywhere we have not been ourselves, so these guides are intended to help group leaders first lead themselves on the Mercy Journey, as they get ready to lead their group.

Children and Youth Discussion Guides

Lead your youth and children through the Mercy Journey with these discussion guides that mirror the sermon series, yielding an immersive experience that families can join in together. Each guide includes a main idea, key Scriptures, 3–4 main points, and age-specific lessons and takeaways.

Email Campaign Materials

As church members increasingly rely on digital news and updates, we've created a five-part Mercy Journey email campaign to help encourage attendance and engagement with the series in your church. These emails, written from the perspective of the lead pastor, are intended to be sent weekly, starting with an invitation to be sent the week prior to the start of the series. The four following emails recap the prior Sunday's content and preview what is to come. We recommend sending these emails on Wednesdays or Thursdays, depending on your church's communication rhythm.

Digital Promotional Materials

A suite of promotional assets have been created to encourage curiosity about, participation in, and retention of what's discussed during the Mercy Journey. To fit your church's needs, these assets can be used in a number of ways:

- Email header image can be used for weekly emails or as a banner image on your church's website
- Instagram-square images with scriptures, key data and powerful quotes can be used for promotion across all social media platforms, embedded on your website or printed in a church bulletin
- Lock screen images for the user's smart phone to aid in scripture memory

Video Content

Video interviews around the topic of mercy with key faith leaders are included. In addition, powerful quotes and moments from these interviews can be used as promotional pieces or as elements of your sermons.

Announcement Flyer

A standard-size flyer announcing the Mercy Journey series is included. We have prepared versions for standard office printers and for professional print shops.

The Mercy Journey for Families

This resource explores some of the primary themes and findings as they relate to our daily interactions and decisions within the context of family. It is intended to spur interactive and intimate conversations between housemates, whether they be parents and children, spouses, or multigenerational households.

The Mercy Journey for Business Leaders

This resource explores some of the primary themes and findings as they relate to our daily interactions and decisions within the workplace. It is intended to help entrepreneurs, managers and others with professional influence consider the meaning of mercy for business leaders individually and for business cultures in the broader sense.

Where Do We Go from Here?

In this special report on racism and reconciliation, we set out to explore issues related to the treatment of black Americans and other ethnic minorities. In *Where Do We Go from Here?*, new data focuses on how U.S. Christians feel about racism and what they believe it will take to move forward.