

# **Gospel Shaped Mercy**

(Session Seven) *Diversity: Community Enriched*

1. This session is titled "Diversity: Community Enriched."
  - a. Is your local community currently enriched by diversity?
  - b. If so, how?

## ***Watch Part One of Video***

### **Read Luke 10:29-37**

2. What question did the lawyer ask Jesus (verse 29)?
  - a. How did he then answer his own question (verses 36-37)?
3. Jesus' parable doesn't tell us "who" our neighbor is so much as "how" to be a neighbor.
  - a. How are we to be neighbors to others?
  - b. How do we know from the parable that this applies to more than just those who live close to us?

### **Read Revelation 7:9-14**

## ***Watch Part Two of Video***

7. In Revelation 7, John sees a huge crowd standing before God's throne.
  - a. Where are they from (verse 9)?
  - b. How does one of the elders describe these people (verse 14)?
8. What does John's vision have to do with the issue of diversity?

9. Use the following questions from Stephen talk to ask yourselves how well your church family is modeling this "unity-in-diversity":

- a. Who do you go to church with? Is it primarily people that look like you, and talk like you?
  
- b. What is the ethnic makeup of your congregation in comparison to the ethnic makeup of your neighborhood?
  
- c. Are you cultivating friendships with people in your congregation who are unlike you - a different generation; a different socio-economic group; a different ethnicity?
  
- d. Who do you spend your time with during the week? Who are your closest friends? Are they those who look and act like you? Do you have close friends who are radically different than you?

***Watch Part Three of Video***

"The book of Revelation gives us a picture of what happens when God makes the world right. It is ultimately a foretelling of God's inevitable victory. In the end *GOD WINS* and brings about the holistic shalom that he desires. He wants unity-in-diversity in his people--and he is going to get it.

- a. How do you respond to this statement, and why?

10. Look again at your answers to the "unity-in-diversity" questions from question nine.

- a. What practical steps can you take to open up relationships with those who are unlike you?
  
- b. Include at least one idea that you can put into practice in the next 48 hours.