

**Exodus to New Life – Wisdom for the Way Out and the Way In  
Small Group Meeting Plan #10**

**Sermon Title: “ Lord Have Mercy ” Text: Exodus 32 - 33  
November 20, 2011**

**Open in Prayer**

**Fellowship Questions and Options:**

- Have the group share about the family rules they had to keep while growing up.
- Name a time when you did something wrong, and about the “justice” you experienced as a result.

**Reading of the text:** Exodus, Chapters 32 and 33 (Have the group take turns reading two verses at a time; allow people to pass if needed)

**Study questions for the Sermon and Text:** (choose as needed)

1. What if WPC didn't gather for worship for five weeks. What would happen to us as a community of faith? What happens to you when you don't worship for five weeks?
2. Read Exodus 32:1-6. What do you think drove this situation? What is seductive about “Golden Calf” religion? What are some current examples?
3. Read Exodus 32:11-14. How does Moses approach God? What can you learn about prayer from this “debate”? Who wins? Why?
4. What was Aaron's failure? How have you experienced these pressures? (Check Exodus 32:21-24) How do you see his failure played out in events today?
5. How does Moses deal with the resulting chaos? (Check v. 26) Why is this his only move? When have you had to renew a commitment?
6. Read Exodus 32:30-35. What might Moses be presuming about God? Talk about the statement, “God is always supposed to forgive, isn't he?” How do we presume on God's mercy? Why do we?
7. Read Exodus 33:18-23. Pastor Thompson said the strongest antidote to idolatry is not to name all the idols, but to do what Moses did. What did he do? How did God respond?
8. Discuss this statement: God is merciful. But God's mercy is never to be taken for granted. We do not relate to mercy, we relate to the God of mercy. Where does this put us with God?

**The Challenge:**

How to live within the laws of God.

**Prayer Options:** (choose as needed for your group)

- Pray for those who need to know Christ as their Savior.
- Pray for those who are looking for work.

**Mission encouragement for the fall**

Find ways to serve others every day; you will be blessed and you will serve the kingdom as well.

**Leader notes:**

- Have your group share their highlights for this sermon series in terms of the scripture that meant the most. Also, are there any comments or suggestions for the small group plans? Please email these responses to Pastor Steve or Kathy.
- Work on the December meetings you will have with your group. Have some fun doing what helps you to get into the holiday spirit. Bake cookies, decorate a house, serve someone in need, or read that special story. We will not do email small group plans until January 8<sup>th</sup>.