

Welcome to Mercy Street- we hope you find in this semi-circle the hope and friendship many of us have found.

Mercy Street is a place for men and women who have a hurt, habit or hang-up. Whether it is grief, loss, anger, anxiety/fear or longing for change (for you or others)- whatever brought you through the door tonight, we hope that you will know that the unspoken words here are "me, too" ...."us, too"

When we gather in a place of recognition that we are actually not that great at being "god" in our own life, something spectacular happens. God begins to reveal Him/Herself in ways that can only be described as wonderful, tangible, peaceful and maybe even transformative. This is not a magic place, but an honest place of healing (sometimes slower than we would like) but always healing. Hope is here. You are not alone.

We gather to share encouragement, strength and hope.

We ask that you try at least 6 meetings to see if this group is right for you.

Now we are going to take some time and sit in silence, after wards we will join together and read the Serenity Prayer.

# Mercy Street Meeting Format

## Opening Song

### Welcome:

Welcome to Mercy Street. We hope that you will find in this fellowship the help and friendship we have been privileged to share.

We who have lived with a hurt, habit or hang-up understand perhaps as few others can that we often find ourselves stuck. We, too, were frustrated with ourselves and/or others, but at Mercy Street we discover that no situation is really hopeless and that it is possible for us to find contentment and peace no matter the circumstance.

We urge you to try the Christ Centered 12 Steps. They have helped many of us find solutions that lead to serenity. So much depends on our own attitudes, and as we learn to place our problem in its true perspective, we find it loses its power to dominate our thoughts and our lives. Remember you are not alone.

We suggest coming to at least 6 meetings to give yourself time to see if this group is right for you.

Now we are going to have a moment of silence and then we will read The Serenity Prayer together. After that we will have a time of worship and sharing. (please join me for a moment of silence)

## Serenity Prayer

## Worship Continues...

## Announcements:

Are there any recovery related announcements or celebrations?

At this time we are going to pass around the basket. If this is your first or second time to Mercy Street please let it pass. Money collected is used to pay for childcare and other expenses.

## The Twelve Steps

Our gathering follows the spiritual disciplines of the 12 Steps. They aren't something we created. They were developed decades ago and have helped millions worldwide in dealing with hurts, habits or hang-ups. We will display them on the screen (and/or pass them around). As we take turns reading the steps I will read the Biblical text that corresponds to it.

## Step Topic

Each month we highlight one of the steps, and by the end of the Mercy Street calendar year we will have covered all twelve. Tonight we are looking at Step \_\_\_\_\_. The steps aren't something we master and finish, but are a way of life that leads to freedom, serenity and transformation. Whatever step you are on we encourage you to listen and keep an open posture to learn and receive.

We have found that no matter our differences, we are more alike than we first assumed.

## Gender Specific

Now we will break into male and female share groups. Thanks for coming. Keep coming back and remember it works if you work it.

## The Twelve Steps

1. We admitted we were powerless over our hurts, habits and hang-ups and other peoples choices--that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we *understood Him*.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.