

EVERYDAY WITNESS – COMPASSIONATE WITNESSES

SMALL GROUP NOTES 05/05/19

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SCRIPTURE

- Luke 7:36-50
- 1 John 3:16-18

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

We aren't to view people as projects, nor mission as a chore, but rather from a heart of love we seek to bless the people around us. Jesus modelled perfect compassion, allowing the hurting, broken and isolated to come close and receive love. So we are called to love, care and bless those that God draws into our lives. In Luke 7, Jesus didn't enter Simon's house to become inaccessible but rather entered in to be approachable. The woman could get close to Jesus and he welcomed her, showing love and compassion. Jesus was active in entering into the situation, welcoming the woman, speaking hope over her, teaching Simon and challenging hard hearts. 1 John 3 calls us not to just love in words or talk but in deed and in truth. We need to grow at being present in our daily lives, seeing the needs, hurts and pain around us and actively engaging with it.

QUESTION FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. In Luke 7, the Pharisees were quick to judge the woman, clearly lacking compassion. Do you have any examples of how the world around you can lack compassion for certain types of people and their circumstances? How does that affect you?
2. Jesus is never overwhelmed by the troubles of the world, but we often are. To cope, we can sometimes numb ourselves to feeling compassion, or swing the other way and try to be the solution to all the problems around us. Do you relate to either of these? Why is turning to prayer helpful with both these potential reactions?
3. Jesus is settled at a home but is still approachable, allowing the woman in and to be with him. Sharing a meal is one of our 8 S's from our Invited culture. Why is offering hospitality and opening our homes to others a compassionate act? How is it counter-cultural and helpful as a witness of the gospel?
4. 1 John 3 encourages us not to just love in word but also in deed. Who are those around you currently in need of compassion? What could you say and do to offer God's love? Be specific, keep it achievable and start now by praying for the situation.