

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: Behold
Message Title: Behold Compassion
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: November 26, 2017

UP NEXT

- **re|engage** - Registration for next semester's re|engage class is now open. No marriage is perfect, but yours could be better. Visit reality.church/reengage.
- **Financial Peace University** - Also starting in January is our next Financial Peace University class. Mark your calendars. If your Life Group would like to take it together on your normal meeting night, in your normal meeting spot, you can do so. Please email robert.conn@reality.church for more information.
- **New Reality Kids Building** - Come next Sunday (December 3rd) and take a tour of the new Reality Kids wing!
- **Behold The Lamb of God** - The Worship Team invites you to come out on Friday, December 15th to hear them perform the story of Christmas in song. Bring a friend and enjoy a great night of music. This free concert begins at 6:30pm.
- **Christmas Eve Services** - Join us at one of our Christmas Eve Services Sunday, December 24th. Service times will be 9:00am, 10:45am, 3:00pm, and 4:30pm.

MAIN IDEA

Compassion to us should lead to Compassion through us

INTRODUCTION

- Compassion is tied to suffering. Compassion is more than just having pity for someone's suffering. You can have pity with no action. When pity is accompanied with action, it becomes compassion.

DISCUSSION

- What was your "Best Christmas Ever" and what made it so?
- Explain a time when you felt pressured to make Christmas important or meaningful to someone else.
- We talked about how there is a difference between *Looking* at something and *Beholding* something. If you remember this from the sermon, explain what that difference is.
- Have someone read [\(1 John 3:16-19\)](#)
- How do we know what true love is?
- List some practical ways to show love to others through your actions this Christmas.
 - Throughout this next week, concentrate on one of these. Next week share with the group how God was glorified.
- Obviously, Jesus died on the cross for us, but what else could it mean that "Jesus gave up his life for us"?

- Similarly, how can we ‘give up our life for others’ this Christmas season?
- How would you explain this quote to someone who was not a Christian... *“It is impossible to be compassionate and selfish at the same time”*?
- We can go through this entire Christmas season either living open-handed or by living with clenched fists. List some ways you can live open-handed towards others.

APPLY IT

- *Start* with the gospel. If you have not believed in Jesus, do so today. Ask your Life Group to explain the gospel to you.
- *Slow Down*, stop simply looking at others this Christmas, and start *beholding* them.
- *See Something, Do Something*. If you see a need this Christmas, commit to doing something about that need. It doesn't need to be extravagant.

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RECOMMENDED CHRISTMAS RESOURCE

CHANGING CHRISTMAS - by Marcus Bieschke

Are you sick and tired of a disappointing, weak, lame Christmas experience? Do you want to get well? Do you want to change Christmas? Then CHANGE IT. In this message by Willow Crystal Lake Lead Pastor, Marcus Bieschke, you'll learn how to enjoy a Christmas that is less about the mayhem and more about the meaning. This year, don't let Christmas happen to you. Instead, how about if you happen to Christmas?! You can do something to make Christmas stronger, better, more meaningful. You can lose the pointlessness of your Christmas experience and shift to live the Point of Christmas!

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