

## Deep Practice Discipleship Guide

**Text:** Luke 7:11–17

**Big Idea:** When God visits, compassion interrupts the funeral procession.

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### 1. SHARE — Reflect on Last Week’s Practice

Before we open the text, we look at our lives.

Take a few minutes to share:

- What did you commit to practice last week?
- Where did you follow through?
- Where did you hesitate?
- What did you notice about your reactions, habits, or fears?

Deep discipleship grows in reflection. We are not trying to impress each other. We are training attention and obedience.

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### 2. SERMON OUTLINE

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#### I. The Funeral We All Recognize

- A widow. An only son. A procession of grief.
  - Suffering is real — and it raises real questions.
  - We often doubt not in theory, but in grief.
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#### II. The Compassion That Moves Toward Pain

- “When the Lord saw her...” — Jesus sees.
- “He had compassion...” — visceral mercy.
- Jesus does not explain suffering; He enters it.
- If God were distant, this scene would look different.

- “God has visited His people.”
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### **III. The Touch That Interrupts Death**

- Jesus touches the bier — He steps into death-space.
  - Life returns.
  - This is a sign: death is not the final authority.
  - The question beneath suffering is not only “Why?” but “Is God present?”
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### **IV. Becoming a Visitation People**

If compassion is what it looks like when God visits, then the church becomes the ongoing visitation.

We cannot raise the dead.

But we can:

- Walk toward the grieving instead of away.
- Interrupt loneliness.
- Sit in hospital rooms.
- Show up when others disappear.
- Refuse to explain suffering away and instead embody presence.

Compassion is not fixing.

It is entering.

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## **3. DISCUSS**

### **Remember**

1. What are the key actions Jesus takes in this passage?
2. What does the crowd conclude after the miracle?

### **Understand**

3. Why is the widow’s situation especially severe in her cultural context?
4. What does it mean that Jesus “had compassion”?

## **Apply**

5. Where do you see funeral processions today — places where grief or despair is moving forward?
6. What would it look like to step toward one instead of around it?

## **Analyze**

7. How does this story reshape the way we think about God and suffering?
8. Why is the touch of the bier such a powerful symbol?

## **Evaluate**

9. When someone suffers, are you more likely to explain or to enter? Why?
10. What does this story suggest is the more faithful response?

## **Create**

11. Imagine your church became known as a “procession-interrupting” people. What would change in your community?

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## **4. STORYING EXERCISE**

### **Related Story: Mark 5:21–43 — Jairus’ Daughter**

Have someone read the story aloud.

Then close Bibles.

As a group, retell the story from memory.

Notice:

- The delay.
- The fear.
- The mourners.
- The touch.
- The command to rise.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What similarities do you see between this story and Luke 7?

2. How does Jesus handle fear and grief?
3. Why does He take the girl by the hand?
4. What do these stories teach us about the character of God?

These accounts are not just miracles.  
They are windows into divine compassion.

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## **LIVE — Deep Practice Commitment**

Choose something that you will work on this week as part of your discipleship. If you don't have a current practice you are working on try this week, practice interruption.

### **Step 1 — Watch**

Notice visible and invisible suffering around you.

### **Step 2 — Move Toward**

Choose one concrete action:

- A visit.
- A phone call.
- A meal.
- Sitting in silence.
- A handwritten note.

### **Step 3 — Reflect**

Afterward ask:

- What did I feel?
- What did I resist?
- What did I learn about God?

Write your commitment:

**This week, I will interrupt a procession by:**