

Discussion Questions – Week 6

Jesus and the Widow of Nain – God of Compassion

Week 6 – “Jesus in My Story” with Mindee Evans-Maxson

1. This week, Mindee preached from Luke 7:11-15 about Jesus and the widow of Nain and how this one-on-one encounter with Jesus displays a fundamental characteristic of God: His COMPASSION.

- a. The Greek phrase used to describe how Jesus felt for the widow after having just lost her only son -*splagchnizomai* - is actually the word for intestines, to mourn or grieve for a person from the liver, the lungs, the guts and the heart.
- b. Have you ever felt this way on behalf of another person?

2. It just so happens that 500 years before Jesus brings the widow’s son back to life, in this same location, Elijah performed this exact same miracle (I Kings 17:19-23).

- a. One of the things that was said about the Jewish coming Messiah, the long-awaited Savior, was that he would come in the spirit of Elijah. What does this mean?
- b. These two miracles are mirror images for a messianic reason: why is this significant, do you think?

3. What do you think of the counseling concept of the “witness of seeing” - entering into the heart of someone else’s suffering?

- a. “Witnessing,” one therapist was quoted as saying, “is connected to the healing of the world.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
- b. Have you ever been “witnessed” in your pain? What was that experience like? Have you ever had the chance to do this for someone else? Was it difficult? Rewarding?

4. The first person to NAME God in the Bible was an immigrant named Hagar who called God, “El Roi,” which means “the God who SEES ME.”

- a. Have you ever felt SEEN by God?
- b. What was that experience like?

5. Compassion is *passion with a heart*.

- a. So... what are you always talking passionately about?
- b. What do you most yearn to impart to people?
- c. What people are you most drawn to help?
- d. ... what breaks your heart?

Let’s participate in God’s mission of healing for this world. What an honor. Thanks and God bless.