

## **The Great Commandment 4: Compassion**

### **Introduction**

Love God and love others. A key word when it comes to loving others is compassion. In Luke 7 and 8 we see Jesus interact with several people. Through this narrative we see how Jesus does compassion. We break down his response into three pieces: observe, empathize, and act. Let's see what this means for us as we live out Jesus' creed.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. A key part of compassion is paying attention. Has someone ever noticed your need for help or connection? It feels nice to be seen. What was it like to have someone speak into your life like that?
2. Read Luke 7:11-17. A widow losing her son doesn't just mean the loss of another loved one. It also means this woman has no one else to provide for her. Talk through Jesus' response to this funeral procession. Can you identify the three stages mentioned in the introduction? Why are all three important?
3. It's vulnerable to let yourself feel other people's pain, yet empathy is so important to real connection and compassion. How would you define empathy? Talk about the difference between sympathy and empathy. Which would you prefer to receive? Why?
4. Read Luke 7:36-50. Compassion can mean meeting a need, or just giving your time and attention. Sometimes the most compassionate thing we can do is withhold judgement. Sometimes it's just forgiveness. Talk through the story of Jesus' visit to Simon's house? What did Jesus give to the woman? What did Jesus give to Simon?
5. How can we intentionally look for ways to be compassionate in our everyday lives? Use the three pieces discussed in the sermon (observe, empathize, act) as a guide.

### **Changing Your Mind**

"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. (Lk 7:41-43).